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THURSDAY, MAY 28TH 2009

'HE WILL BE A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW'

Vale of Glamorgan MP John Smith to stand down

by TIM CHAPMAN

JOHN SMITH, the Vale's MP, is to stand down at the next general election – more than 20 years after he was first returned to Parliament by local voters.

In a statement, Mr Smith said that the decision has been forced on him due to ill health.

Mr Smith told The GEM: "I will be 60 in the first year of the next Parliament and I have recently experienced health problems.

"I have been in politics for nearly 40 years and the greatest honour has been to represent at Westminster the area where I was born and brought up.

"It does not get better than that, and I sincerely thank the people of the Vale of Glamorgan for repeatedly returning me to Parliament.

"I will step down at the next election. Until then, I will work hard to deliver the Defence Technical College (DTC) on target and continue to represent all the people of the Vale to the best of my ability.

"After that, I have decided to catch up on time with my family, focus on my health and look ahead to new challenges."

The Vale Constituency Labour Party will now begin the process of selecting a new candidate to contest the seat, a key marginal which Mr Smith won in 2005 with 1,808 more votes than his nearest challenger Alun Cairns of the Conservatives.

Mr Cairns was quick to pay tribute to his former political opponent: "I am very sorry to hear about John Smith's ill-health and wish him a long and happy retirement.

"Although I have disagreed with him on a significant number of issues, he has always campaigned tirelessly for what he believed in."

Mr Smith, the grandson of a founder member of the Labour Party in Wales and son of local boxing legend John 'Jimmy' Smith, was first elected to represent the Vale in 1989.

In 1992, he lost the seat by just 19 votes to Walter Sweeney, but proved to be the 'Comeback Kid' by regaining the seat in the Labour landslide of 1997.

Mr Smith developed a reputation as a determined campaigner on issues such as the safety of air travellers suffering from deep vein thrombosis (DVT), road safety, and what he will regard as his legacy to the Vale, the £12 billion Defence Technical College (DTC).

In recent years, Mr Smith did not always endear himself to Friends of the Earth for his enthusiastic stance on the DTC, or recently those in favour of the Gurkhas' rights to settle in Britain, although he pledged at the time: "I can assure your readers that I will continue to do all I can to bring about a fair outcome for the Gurkhas, whether or not this remains a popular cause."

ABOVE:
Mr Smith's parliamentary career will come to an end at the general election.

Amid the furore over MPs' expenses it should be noted that, in general, Mr Smith has been a low claimer of parliamentary expenses.

According to the *theyworkforyou.com* website, which gives a breakdown of Westminster claims, in 2003/04 he ranked 589th out of 658 MPs with £101,433; in 2004/05, 464th out of 659 MPs with £116,843; in 2005/06 he claimed less, £115,670 (no ranking available for that year); in 2006/07 he was 565th out of 646 MPs with £118,496; in 2007/08 he was 296th out of 646 MPs, a jump caused by the use of the 'communications allowance' – a sum available to sitting MPs which they can spend on keeping constituents informed about their MP's activities.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Cost of exploring Cardiff Airport access road options stands at £2.2million, but will it go ahead?

by TIM CHAPMAN

A REGIONAL Assembly Member said he is shocked by the £2.2million cost of exploring Cardiff Airport access road options – and claims Ministers might pull the plug on the project.

Alun Cairns AM told The GEM: "In an answer to an Assembly question, Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Minister for Economy and Transport admitted that the Assembly Government had spent £1.9million on consultants and feasibility studies for the airport access road, and a further £369,000 on the failed attempt to trunk the A48."

Mr Cairns said a day later he called on the government to make a statement on what would happen, and was told by Carwyn Jones AM that "the Deputy First Minister will make a decision, as soon as possible, as to which, if any, transport developments will be taken forward."

Mr Cairns claimed a particular phrase in the response could be a signal the government was shifting its position.

He said: " I was shocked by the amount the government had spent on consultancy fees for the access road – £2.2million is a lot of money to spend on a project that they appear to be pulling back from.

"When I asked the government for a statement, I was told that the Minster would make a statement as soon as possible as to which, 'if any', transport developments would be taken forward.

"The 'if any' answer was a significant move away from their previous position and placed doubt on their plans.

"There are huge numbers of people whose communities and properties are being blighted by the uncertainty.

"He needs to make clear his plans and state his preferred route. If he doesn't state his preferred route, these communities will always have a question mark hanging over them.

"They have spent millions and disrupted people's lives and now they are not even sure if the access road will go ahead.

"This indecision and delay is unfair to those who will be affected by the access road. Further uncertainty will not please anyone."

Suzanne and John Campbell, who have helped to spearhead a campaign by Wenvoe residents to prevent a dual carriageway being constructed through the village, said if the project was dropped they would want an assurance it wasn't a temporary stay of execution.

Mrs Campbell told The GEM: "If the idea of dualling the road through Wenvoe is dropped, there would be an immediate sense of relief.

"But there would be a worry that things were unresolved and it could come back.

"We don't want a Sword of Damocles hanging over us, we want our village given back to us permanently."

Mrs Campbell said if the upgraded road went ahead it would lead to compulsory purchase orders for people who have lived in Wenvoe for decades, along with excessive noise and extra pollution which would have to be endured not just by the village, but by the local junior school as well.

A total of 790 people in Wenvoe have backed the petition against using the Port Road as an upgraded route to Cardiff Airport.

Peter Fox, on behalf of another Vale campaigning group, No Ely Valley Airport Road, said if the government did drop the plans it would vindicate their argument

He said: "There have been huge concerns about the consultation, and if the government decides it no longer needs the road, it shows our actions have been justified.

"There is no requirement for an airport access road – even the Assembly's consultants found that congestion at Culverhouse Cross was not caused by airport traffic," he insisted.

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What about AM's property profit?

I READ with interest in recent news reports that my regional Assembly Member and parliamentary candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, Alun Cairns, has decided to stop claiming an allowance for a second home in Cardiff Bay, even though his main home is about a 30-minute drive from the National Assembly.

This move is an admission that claiming this allowance is unacceptable. Will Mr Cairns therefore repay this allowance for all the years that he has been claiming it, and make a commitment to return to the Assembly any profit from the sale of his second home in Cardiff Bay?
Ms Kelly Griffiths, Swansea

Public will despair of local politicians!

A WEEK in politics is a long time! Reading the Llantwit Major GEM, there appears to be an awful lot of fighting between the parties.

Surely the purpose of having these people elected in the first place is to serve the local community?

The feeling the public have towards MPs at the moment is one of total disillusionment. What, I wonder, will the public make of all this?
Ian Crosby, Llantwit Cajor

The Llantwit Town Council will not affect election vote

WITH reference to the letter from Coun Gwyn John (GEM letters May 14) taking into consideration the present economic climate, people losing their jobs and housing, our soldiers losing their lives in Iraq and now Afghanistan, it is difficult to understand why Llantwit Town Council should rate such major importance.

As to responding to this at a general election, I cannot see the connection, and how Mr Cairns should be involved.

I am not a member of a political party or group, and my vote will be placed on three considerations:

1 Will the candidate represent the interests of the Vale, my family and the country at large?

2 The candidate as an individual, including personality, integrity and drive.

3 The party.

In The GEM (April 2) comments were made about duplication and poor use of resources where Vale and town councillors have been working from different ends to resolve the same problem, and prior to this, even councillors making tea in the town hall!

If these are matters that our representatives regard as important, perhaps we should emulate Rhoose and remove one of the many tiers of representation which we have to pay for.
B Davies, Llantwit Major

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

St Athan academy – the goalposts are moving

A NUMBER of letters have recently been written to The GEM on the defence academy at St Athan; the majority of which are suddenly against the development on the grounds that Metrix are not listening to local concerns about the impact on the surrounding area.

Some two years ago, I attended the first open meeting held on the topic and it appeared that the development would have very little intrusion on the people of Church Meadow and Boverton itself.

My only concern at the time was that the proposed road across the fields would create an unnecessary blot on the landscape.

At a later meeting with the then WDA and Jane Hutt on the matter of flooding in the area, and the effect of surface water running off the road, the WDA representative stated, among other things, that the road would be screened by trees to reduce the impact on the rural beauty of the area.

I now understand that 'completely out of the blue', 359 houses are planned to be built on undeveloped farm grazing land adjacent to the Llantwit Major bypass!

No wonder people are suddenly taking interest in the academy and raising objections.

Metrix have suddenly moved the goalposts. This development of houses appears to be completely divorced from the remainder of the academy and asks the question, is there a hidden agenda?

What happened to the Vale's embargo on any new housing development being undertaken on 'green belt land' east/north east of the Llantwit Major bypass for a period of 30 years (issued in 1986 so valid until 2016)?

I also understand that a second entrance to the St Athan site is being proposed to accommodate the Aerospace Business Park. This entrance is to cross the railway line somewhere between St Athan Cross and St Athan West Camp entrance.

If this is the case, why can't this approach also provide the main entry into the Academy, and hence save the destruction of green belt grazing land?
Sqn Ldr P Boley, RAF (Ret'd), Boverton

'Let Vale take over Llantwit Town Council'

I AM proud to have been the second town mayor of Llantwit Major, and privileged to have served on the former parish council and the reconstituted town council for a total of 19 years.

On Thursday last, I attended part of the annual meeting of the town council which, in my view was highly orchestrated and completely alien to the principles of government, albeit 'grass roots', which I had been brought up to respect.

I am led to the conclusion, which I know is shared by many other Llantwit Major residents, that due consideration should be given to a petition being lodged with the Vale Council to assume the statutory functions of Llantwit Major Town Council.
J Dewi Evans, Llantwit Major

Why was usual protocol broken over the new Mayor of Llantwit?

HAVING just heard that the new Mayor of Llantwit Major is once again to be Coun Russell Downe, who was mayor some three years ago, I felt I had to write to air my concerns.

I was under the misapprehension that protocol for the appointment of the Mayor of Llantwit Major was that it is handed down in rotation to the deputy mayor, and in this case that would be to Coun Ann Matthews, the then deputy mayor.

She has, in her time, ably stood in for the mayor on a number of occasions, most notably when the town twinning association visited Brittany in 2008.

Coun Downe must have a very good and understanding employer to allow him so much time off work so that he can carry out the duties of his office.

Why has the town council decided, on this occasion, to ignore the protocol that has existed for many years and what has prompted this bizarre series of events?

Surely, it would have been fairer to have given the honour to Ms Matthews, who has already served the town with distinction and was prepared to serve her town further as its mayor?

However, the way this situation has occurred leaves me to fear that this change of tack is nothing to do with Ms Matthews' previous performance or suitability.

I suspect it is more of a calculated manoeuvre which is driven by motives beyond that of the best interests of the people of Llantwit Major and them having the most suitable individual in post.
JM Griffiths, Llantwit Major

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 4)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
28 Thur	10.34	14.2	22.55	14.2
29 Fri	11.29	13.8	23.52	13.8
30 Sat			12.26	13.3
31 Sun	00.39	13.4	13.15	13.0
01 Mon	01.38	13.1	14.21	12.8
02 Tues	02.39	13.0	15.23	12.8
03 Wed	03.49	13.0	16.27	13.0
04 Thur	04.52	13.3	17.23	13.3

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HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
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Mental Health Helpline:
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

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The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

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The end of an era for Vale MP John Smith

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

When The GEM invited him to comment on the controversy over MPs' expenses last week, his spokesman said: "Mr Smith believes in full transparency and that's why the details of his expenses will be published as soon as is practicable.

"He does not own a second home in London, has never claimed for luxury goods, and has never profited by one penny from his expenses claims.

"However, he is extremely depressed by what is going on and the way in which Parliament has been brought into disrepute by the actions of some people."

Local Labour Party members, who attended a meeting with Mr Smith last Friday, greeted news that he was standing down with sadness and regret.

The local chairman, Coun Stuart Egan, said: "We are saddened by this news but fully respect and understand John's decision.

"Since he was first elected as our MP 20 years ago, John has been a great champion of the Vale.

"Representing the area where he was born and brought up has never been a 'job' but a labour of love for him."

Constituency secretary, Coun Chris Elmore said: "Whether it's the many constituents whose problems he helped resolve, or the thousands of jobs for local people that will be created by the DTC at St Athan which he delivered, John's hard work has made a real difference to the lives of people in the Vale.

"We would like sincerely to wish John and his family the very best for the future.

"We will now select a new Labour candidate who will continue to build on John's excellent record here in the Vale".

His Labour Party colleague, Jane Hutt AM, added: "John has always put service to the people of the Vale first and will be a great loss to our constituents.

"He has also made an outstanding contribution as an MP by his championing of causes such as the DVT long haul flights campaign, resulting in worldwide change, for which he has been rightly honoured.

"I have valued and will miss his friendship, support and advice as a political colleague and ally over the past 10 years.

"He will be a hard act to follow and I wish him every happiness in his well-deserved retirement."

Teddy Bears parachute in to boost Child appeal

THE St. Cadoc's Church, Cadoxton, Barry held its sponsored teddy bear parachute jump and barbecue on Sunday, May 24.

We were blessed with glorious weather for the record 72 bears that dared to attempt their parachute jump, and after undergoing their medical checks in the well-equipped first aid tent, were allowed to fly.

Most of the bears landed safely, although for the few with minor injuries, stretcher bearers were on hand to transport them to the first aid tent for treatment.

Each participating bear was awarded a well-deserved certificate of bravery. The prize for the best dressed adult bear was given to Mrs T Mouter.

The winners of the children's best dressed bears were: first prize, Nicholas Currie; second prize, Grace Corne; third prize, Shanice.

The event has raised the grand sum of £1,092 to date, which will enable the parish churches of St. Cadoc's and St. Mary's to send many more gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children in eastern European countries this Christmas, as part of the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe-box appeal.

This year's boxes will be packed ready for dispatch at the end of October. We were able to send 500 gift filled boxes last year.

SHIRLEY POWELL

Burglary in Coronation Street is investigated

POLICE are investigating a burglary of a house in Coronation Street, Barry.

The incident took place overnight on May 13-14. A quantity of cash and a handbag containing a purse and bank cards were taken.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant of Barry CID said: "The burglars were able to gain access to the property because it was left insecure.

"Many burglaries occur on the spur of the moment as a burglar may see an opportunity and take their chance.

"Some criminals will seek out insecure properties where they can find an easy target."

If anyone has any information concerning this offence, contact DC Rebecca Merchant at Barry CID on 01446 731606, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

BARRY PROTESTOR WAS 'VIOLENTLY REMOVED' FROM ROOF – COURT IS TOLD

TWO property developers from Northern Ireland bought a house not knowing it had an added extra – a protester living on the roof, a court heard.

Angry Ricky Canty set up camp on the roof of the suburban semi in protest at being evicted by the previous owner – and stayed there for two years.

He became a tourist attraction as people came from miles around to see him camping out on the tiles night and day.

But the pair of would-be property tycoons bought the £92,000 house at auction, without knowing about Mr Canty's day-and-night rooftop demo.

The court heard Irish developers Ernest Wray, 57, and George Beatty, 56, plotted to "violently remove" former car salesman Mr Canty, 59, from his rooftop perch.

Prosecutor David Elias said: "Mr Canty used to live in the house, but that was taken away from him through the courts - he claimed unlawfully. Mr Canty was living on the roof for a number of years.

"The two property developers bought the house at auction not knowing he was there. They no doubt had a view to doing it up and selling at a profit.

"They didn't know there were difficulties and that Mr Canty had occupied the roof in protest."

The court heard that Wray and Beatty had tried to evict Mr Canty legally from the semi in Barry, but failed.

Mr Elias said: "They decided to take the law into their own hands."

The jury was told that one night Mr Canty was on the roof when he was attacked by three men. The court heard that the men punched and kicked Mr Canty - before dragging him through a hole in the roof, throwing him through a bedroom ceiling.

Mr Elias said: "He landed on the bedroom floor and when he got there, he was punched and kicked again. There were about five men in the room, including Wray and Beatty. They organised all of this.

"Mr Canty was bleeding quite heavily, but the men bound his hands and ankles with cable ties. They used a rope to tie his ankles and wrists together behind his back."

Wray and Beatty told police that Mr Canty had fallen through the roof and started to attack them.

Mr Elias said: "They said they were trying to help him, but he started to behave like a banshee and they had to restrain him."

Mr Canty said: "Professional thugs were paid to get me down - they were paid to do a job and I know that for a fact."

He told how he moved onto the roof in April 2006 and made a wooden platform with a tarpaulin cover.

Friends and well-wishers helped him by sending food and drink up in a bucket pulley. He also put up placards around the house in protest.

The developers bought the house at auction in April 2007 - and Mr Canty was finally removed in October 2008.

Wray, of Manor Road, Ennisk, Fermanagh, and Beatty, of Scallan Road, Fermanagh, deny false imprisonment and causing actual bodily harm.

The trial continues.

We plough the fields...

A VERY successful coffee morning was held at Pancross House, Llancarfan, recently in aid of the Welsh Ploughing Association.

The money raised will go toward hosting the All Wales Ploughing and Hedging Championships at Boverton Farm, near Llantwit Major on September 18, 2010.

The event has not been held in the Vale since 2003, and many more fundraising events are planned throughout the next 18 months, including a barn dance with the Wurzels!

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Tony Thomas for hosting the coffee morning, and to all those who helped make the event so successful.

NG

Hundreds sign petitions against power plants plan

MORE than 1,000 people have now signed a petition opposing a plan to construct a multi-rubbish burning power plant to be constructed on Barry Docks.

Local residents have major concerns about how close the plant will be to properties in Barry and Barry Island.

Coun Chris Elmore said: "The petition is growing in number; we are out door knocking almost every day gaining more and more signatures from residents who are concerned about the plant.

"The wood burning plant, which is the smaller plant, has over 700 names and again this is growing daily."

The Vale Council's planning committee has asked for a site visit to Woodham Road where the wood burning plant is proposed.

Coun Pamela Drake said: "Residents have real concerns about these proposals and we are thrilled with the cross-party support, as the opposition to these plants should not be about politics, it should be about supporting residents."

Councillors from the Labour, Conservative and Plaid parties have come out against the plants.

MEP waves the flag at spring fair on behalf of volunteers

PLAID Cymru MEP Jill Evans attended Saturday's Dinas Powys spring fair to show her support for voluntary organisations in the village.

Ms Evans, who represents all of Wales in the European Parliament, spoke to stallholders at the event about the activities carried out by their different organisations.

She said: "I spoke to a great number of people at Saturday's fair who work very hard to support their community, and help to improve people's standards of living."

Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate for the Vale, accompanied Ms Evans to the fair, and added: "The spring fair was very well attended and supported by hard-working groups that make a real impact upon people's lives in Dinas Powys and the wider Vale."

LEFT: Dr Ian Johnson and Jill Evans MEP (centre) with volunteers from Fairtrade in Dinas Powys at the spring fair.

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Vegetarian Mini Spring Rolls (4), Sesame Prawn on Toast (1), Spare Ribs (4), Crispy Seaweed & Satay Chicken on skewers (2).
2 Aromatic Crispy Duck
Served with Spring Onions, Cucumber, Pancakes & Hoi Sin Sauce
Quarter ..... £6.80 Half £12.50
Whole £24.00
3 Aromatic Crispy Lamb £6.00
Served with Spring Onions, Cucumber, 6 x Pancakes & Hoi Sin Sauce
4 Pacific Emperor £5.50
The best King Prawn rolled in thin breast of chicken, coated with finest seasoned flour, cooked with spring onions, chilli & Pepper.
5 Sirloin Steak £8.00
With Chips, Mushroom, Peas & Gravy
6 Roast Duck Spring Rolls (5) £3.00
With Sweet and Sour Sauce
7 Crispy Seaweed £2.80
8 Fried Crab Claws (6) £3.00
9 Sesame Prawn on Toasts £3.50
10 Curry Samosa (10) £2.00
11 Crispy Pancake Rolls (2) £1.60
12 Vegetarian Mini Spring Rolls (10) £1.80
13 Chicken Spring Rolls (6) £2.80
With Sweet and Sour Sauce
14 Satay Chicken on Skewers (4) £4.10
15 Deep Fried Chicken with Breadcrumbs £4.10

SOUPS

16 Seafood Tom Yam Soup) £3.20
Crab Meat, Prawn & Squid
17 King Prawn Tom Yam Soup) £3.20
18 Chicken Tom Yam Soup) £2.20
19 Pork Tom Yam Soup) £2.20
20 Beef Tom Yam Soup) £2.20
21 Duck Tom Yam Soup) £2.70
22 Mushroom Tom Yam Soup) £2.20
23 Won Ton Soup £3.00
24 Crab Meat & Sweet Corn Soup £2.00
25 Chicken & Sweet Corn Soup £1.80
26 Chicken & Noodle Soup £1.80
27 Chicken & Mushroom Soup £1.80
28 Hot & Sour Soup) £2.20
29 Vegetable Soup £1.80

RICE DISHES (Large Portions)

30 House Special Fried Rice £4.60
Sliced Chicken, Roast Pork, Shrimps, Vegetables & Egg on a bed of Egg Fried Rice with BBQ Sauce
31 Special Fried Rice £4.50
Sliced Chicken, Roast Pork, & Egg on a bed of Young Chow Fried Rice with BBQ Sauce
32 Young Chow Fried Rice £4.00
33 Singapore Fried Rice) £4.20
34 King Prawn Fried Rice £4.40
35 Shrimps Fried Rice £4.00
36 Chicken Fried Rice £4.00
37 Beef Fried Rice £4.00
38 Roast Pork Fried Rice £4.00
39 Roast Pork & Chicken Fried Rice £4.10
in BBQ Sauce
39a Ham Fried Rice £4.00
40 King Prawn & Chicken Fried Rice £4.20
41 Roast Duck Fried Rice £4.40
42 Sliced Duck Fried Rice £4.00
43 Mushroom Fried Rice £3.40
44 Mixed Vegetable Fried Rice £3.40
45 Egg Fried Rice £2.20
46 Boiled Rice £1.90

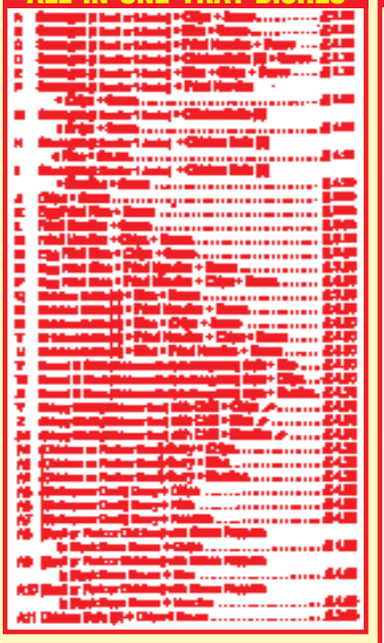
CHOW MEIN (Noodles) (Large Portions)

47 House Special Chow Mein £4.60
48 Special Chow Mein £4.10
49 Singapore Chow Mein) £4.30
50 Chicken Chow Mein £4.00
51 Quarter of Roast Chicken Chow Mein £4.20
52 Beef Chow Mein £4.00
53 Mushroom Chow Mein £3.40
54 Roast Pork Chow Mein £4.00
55 Roast Pork & Chicken Chow Mein £4.20
in BBQ Sauce
56 Sliced Duck Chow Mein £4.10
57 Roast Duck Chow Mein £4.50
58 King Prawn Chow Mein £4.50
59 King Prawn & Chicken Chow Mein £4.30
60 Shrimps Chow Mein £4.00
61 Mixed Seafood & Chicken Chow Mein £4.60
62 Mixed Vegetable Chow Mein £3.40
63 Chow Mein with beansprouts and onions £2.80
64 Ham Chow Mein £4.00
65 Plain Chow Mein (no vegetables) £2.80

RICE NOODLES (Vermicelli) (Large Portions)

66 Singapore Vermicelli) £4.30
67 Special Vermicelli £4.10
68 Chicken Vermicelli £4.00
69 Beef Vermicelli £4.00
70 Mushroom Vermicelli £3.40
71 Roast Pork Vermicelli £4.00
72 Roast Duck Vermicelli £4.50
73 Sliced Duck Vermicelli £4.10
74 Ham Vermicelli £4.00
75 King Prawn Vermicelli £4.50
76 King Prawn & Chicken Vermicelli £4.30
77 Shrimps Vermicelli £4.00
78 Mixed Vegetable Vermicelli £3.40

ALL IN ONE TRAY DISHES



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Sweet & Sour Pork or Chicken Balls

B: For 1 Person – £10.00
Sweet & Sour Chicken Hong Kong Style
Beef with Mushrooms • Egg Fried Rice
Pancake Rolls

C: For 2 Persons – £13.60
Sweet & Sour Pork or Chicken Balls (8)
Chicken with green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce
Beef with Mushrooms
Young Chow Fried Rice (large)

D: For 2 Persons – £14.00
Barbecued Spare Ribs (4)
Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls (8)
Beef in Black Bean Sauce
Young Chow Fried Rice (large)
Prawn Crackers

E: For 3 Persons – £24.00
Sweet & Sour Prawn Balls (12)
Spare Ribs with BBQ Sauce
Vegetarian Spring Rolls (12)
Chicken with Cashew Nuts
Beef with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce
Chicken Chow Mein (large)
Young Chow Fried Rice (large)

The Taste of Canton ★★★★★★
F: For 2 Persons – £24.00
Crispy Platter (2 persons) • Crab Meat & Sweet Corn Soup (2)
Sweet & Sour Chicken Hong Kong Style
Beef with Ginger and Spring Onions
Roast Pork with Straw Mushrooms
Young Chow Fried Rice (large) • Prawn Crackers

The Taste of Peking ★★★★★★
G: For 2 Persons – £25.00
Crispy Aromatic Duck (qtr) • Chicken & Sweet Corn Soup (2)
Spare Ribs peking Style • Chicken with Cashew Nuts
King Prawns with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce
Young Chow Fried Rice (large) • Prawn Crackers

CURRY DISHES (Oriental Style)

(Large Portions)
A traditional Brown Curry, cooked with Peas, Mushrooms, Curry Spice, Carrot and Onions

	NO RICE/CHIPS	WITH RICE/CHIPS
79 House Special Curry	£4.20	£5.20
80 Duck Curry	£4.20	£5.20
81 Lamb Curry	£4.00	£5.00
82 Chicken Curry	£3.90	£4.90
83 Beef Curry	£3.90	£4.90
84 Roast Pork Curry	£3.90	£4.90
85 King Prawn Curry	£4.50	£5.50
86 Shrimp Curry	£3.90	£4.90
87 Mushroom Curry	£3.00	£4.00
88 Mixed Vegetable Curry	£3.00	£4.00

RED CURRY DISHES (Thai Style)

(Large Portions)
A traditional Red Thai Curry, cooked with Peas, Mushrooms, Curry Spice, Onion, Carrot, Green Pepper, Coconut Cream

	NO RICE/CHIPS	WITH RICE/CHIPS
89 House Special Red Curry)	£4.30	£5.30
90 Duck Red Curry)	£4.30	£5.30
91 Lamb Red Curry)	£4.10	£5.10
92 Chicken Red Curry)	£4.00	£5.00
93 Beef Red Curry)	£4.00	£5.00
94 Roast Pork Red Curry)	£4.00	£5.00
95 King Prawn Red Curry)	£4.60	£5.60
96 Shrimp Red Curry)	£4.00	£5.00
97 Mushroom Red Curry)	£3.10	£4.10
98 Mixed Vegetable Red Curry)	£3.10	£4.10

RIBS OF PORK (Large Portions)

99 Spare Ribs in BBQ Sauce £4.40
100 Dry Spare Ribs £4.30
101 Spare Ribs in Spice Salt & Chilli) £4.40
102 Spare Ribs with Black Bean Sauce £4.40
103 Spare Ribs with Swet & Sour Sauce £4.40
104 Spare Ribs in Peking Sauce £4.50
105 Spare Ribs in Honey Sauce £4.50

CHICKEN DISHES (Large Portions)

106 Chicken Chinese Style £4.00
Sliced deep fried chicken on a bed of beansprouts in barbecue sauce
107 Wandering Dragon £4.50
The best king prawns, tender breast of chicken with bamboo shoots, mushrooms, water chestnuts, green pepper with garlic and oyster sauce
108 Chicken in Lemon Sauce £4.10
109 Chicken in Oyster Sauce £4.00
110 Chicken in Honey Sauce £4.10
111 Sar Char Sliced Chicken with Herbs £4.00
112 Sea Spices Chicken with Chilli) £4.00
113 Chicken with Green peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.00
114 Chicken with Cashew Nuts in Yellow Bean Sauce) £4.00
115 Chicken with Ginger & Pineapples £4.00
116 Chicken with Tomatoes £4.00
117 Chicken with Pineapples £4.00
118 Chicken with Cashew Nuts £4.00
119 Chicken with Mushrooms £4.00
120 Chicken with Mixed Vegetables £4.00
121 Chicken with Baby Sweet Corn £4.00
122 Chicken with Straw Mushrooms £4.00
123 Chicken with Bamboo Shoots and Water Chestnuts £4.00
124 Chicken with Chinese Mushrooms and Bamboo Shoots £4.00
125 Kung Po Chicken) £4.10
126 Chicken in Spice Salt & Chilli) £4.10
127 Crispy Chilli Chicken) £4.10
128 Szechuan Chicken) £4.10
129 Chicken with Ginger & Spring Onions £4.00
130 Chicken in Satay Sauce £4.00
130a Salt & Pepper Chicken Wings) £3.20

SEAFOOD DISHES (Large Portions)

131 King Prawns with Mixed Vegetables £4.50
132 King Prawns with Tomatoes £4.50
133 King Prawns with Cashew Nuts in Yellow Bean Sauce £4.50
134 King Prawns in Oyster Sauce £4.50
135 King Prawns with Mushrooms £4.50
136 King Prawns with Cashew Nuts £4.50
137 King Prawns with Bamboo Shoots and Water Chestnuts £4.50
138 King Prawns with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.50
139 King Prawns in Honey Sauce £4.60
140 Sea Spiced King Prawns with Chilli) £4.50
141 Kung Po King Prawns) £4.60
142 Szechuan King Prawns) £4.50
143 King Prawns with Ginger & Spring Onions £4.50
144 King Prawns in Satay Sauce £4.50
145 King Prawns in Spice Salt & Chilli £4.50
146 Squid with Green Peppers & Black Bean sauce £4.50
147 Happy Polynesian £4.80
Mixed seafood, tender pieces of chicken, spring onion, baby corn
148 Squid in Spice Salt & Chilli) £4.60
149 Squid with Ginger & Spring Onions £4.10

BEEF DISHES (Large Portions)

150 Beef Chinese Style £5.00
With onion, peas and Peking sauce
151 Beef with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.10
152 Beef with Cashew Nuts in Yellow Bean Sauce £4.10
153 Beef in Oyster Sauce £4.10
154 Beef with Tomatoes £4.10
155 Beef with Mushrooms £4.10
156 Beef with Spring Onions £4.10
157 Beef with Mixed Vegetables £4.10
158 Sar Char Beef with Herbs £4.10
159 Sea Spices Beef with Chilli) £4.10
160 Kung Po Beef £4.10
161 Sliced Beef in Black Pepper) £5.00
162 Crispy Chilli Beef) £4.10
163 Szechuan Beef) £4.20
164 Beef with Ginger and Spring Onions £4.10
165 Beef in Satay Sauce £4.10

PORK DISHES (Large Portions)

166 Roast Pork Chinese Style £4.00
Sliced deep fried roast pork on a bed of bean sprouts in BBQ Sauce
167 Roast Pork with Mushrooms £4.00
168 Roast Pork with Mixed Vegetables £4.00
169 Roast Pork with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.00
170 Sea Spices Pork with Chilli) £4.00
171 Sauteed Three Delicacies £4.50
King Prawn, Pork, Chicken with Mixed vegetables
172 Szechuan Roast Pork) £4.00
173 Roast Pork with Ginger & Spring Onions £4.00
174 Roast Pork in Satay Sauce £4.00

DUCK DISHES (Large Portions)

175 Roast Duck Chinese Style £4.50
Sliced deep fried Duck on a bed of Bean Sprouts
176 Roast Duck with Plum Sauce £4.50
177 Roast Duck with Orange Sauce £4.50
178 Roast Duck with Mushrooms £4.50
179 Roast Duck with Pineapples £4.50
180 Roast Duck with Ginger & Pineapples £4.50
181 Roast Duck with Chinese Mushrooms & Bamboo Shoots £4.50
182 Roast Duck with Mixed Vegetables £4.50
183 Roast Duck with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.50
184 Sea Spices Duck with Chilli) £4.50
185 Szechuan Roast Duck) £4.50
186 Roast Duck with Ginger & Spring Onions £4.50

LAMB DISHES (Large Portions)

187 Sar Char Lamb with Herbs £4.10
188 Sea Spices Lamb with Chilli) £4.10
189 Quick Fried Lamb with Spring Onions £4.10
190 Lamb with Green Peppers in Black Bean Sauce £4.10
191 Lamb with Chinese Mushrooms and Bamboo Shoots £4.10
192 Szechuan Lamb) £4.10
193 Lamb In Satay Sauce £4.10

SWEET & SOUR DISHES (Large Portions)

194 Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls (10) £4.00
195 Sweet & Sour King Prawn Balls (10) £4.50
196 Sweet & Sour Pork Balls (10) £4.00
197 Sweet & Sour Chicken *Hong Kong Style* £4.10
198 Sweet & Sour Prawn *Hong Kong Style* £4.50
199 Sweet & Sour Pork *Hong Kong Style* £4.10
200 Sweet & Sour Squid *Hong Kong Style* £4.10
201 Sweet & Sour Mixed Vegetables *Hong Kong Style* £3.00
202 Sweet & Sour Bean Curd £3.70

FULL MENU AVAILABLE – PLEASE CALL IN TO COLLECT OR REQUEST WHEN ORDERING

Marine Drive litterbugs are fined £75 a time

Senior enforcement officer Denny White and cabinet member for visible and building services Coun Geoff Cox at Marine Drive, a popular beauty spot in Barry.

THE Vale Council has issued a number of fines recently to people ruining the scenery at a popular Vale beauty spot through littering.

In total, seven fixed penalty notices of £75 were handed to those littering on Marine Drive, Barry, in a single week – after an operation by the council's enforcement team.

The team also informed local residents and visitors that it is an offence to leave behind rubbish, and that "no excuses will be tolerated".

Cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox, said: "If out and about, you should take your litter home to recycle or be putting it into a bin. The Vale of Glamorgan is such a beautiful place – let's keep it that way."

Anti-social behaviour 'kerbed' at Harbour Road

THE Safer Vale Partnership, via their community engagement group, has funded an initiative to reduce instances of antisocial behaviour at Barry Island's Harbour Road car park.

A significant number of anti-social behaviour referrals have been received relating to car racing and illegal rallies at the site, peaking during the summer months.

This is particularly distressing to local residents who have experienced noise annoyance as a result.

As a member of the Safer Vale Partnership, the Vale Council's visible services department has now installed high visibility kerbs throughout the car park to deter car racing and rallying.

Coun Paul Church, chairman of the Safer Vale Partnership, said: "The Vale of Glamorgan does suffer with anti-social behaviour, and although the scale of the problem here is not as big as in other places around the country, we want to take clear action against the minority of people who cause problems in the Vale."

The Safer Vale Partnership is made up of Police, Local Authority, Probation, Health, Fire and Rescue Service, NHS and voluntary agencies to tackle crime and disorder in the Vale.

Coun Anthony Ernest and members of the Safer Vale team at the new, improved Harbour Road car park, which will hopefully help to deter car racing and rallying in the area.

CCTV arrests

THE CCTV operation working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two arrests in the week to May 17.

CCTV contacted the police on 18 occasions, with two arrests taking place; the first relating to shop-lifting (Holton Road, Barry, May 14), and the other for being drunk in charge of a vehicle (Vere Street, Barry, May 16).

In addition, a fixed penalty notice was served for shoplifting at Holton Road (May 14) and two drivers were summoned to appear in court for driving without due care and attention (Barry Waterfront, May 15).

NEWS FROM DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The council's new chair is Dinas woman born and bred

COUN MARGARET HAYLEY was elected chair of Dinas Powys Community Council at the annual general meeting on May 14.

Speaking after the meeting, she said that this was one of the pinnacles of her career.

The daughter of the pioneering heart surgeon Dillwyn Thomas and Mrs Susan Thomas, she was born and bred in Dinas Powys and received her early education at the Cardiff Road Infants School in the village.

After her secondary schooling at Howells School in Llandaff, she went on to study physical education at Nonnington College in Kent.

A proficient sports woman, Margaret has represented Wales at both lacrosse and tennis and presently plays for Wales in veteran tennis. She said: "My parents were never worried about me when I was growing up, as I was too busy knocking a ball about to get into any real trouble."

Having married a professional soldier, Margaret travelled extensively with her husband Mike, who has had a distinguished military career, reaching the rank of Colonel with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

After returning to Dinas Powys 25 years ago, Margaret taught at various schools in the area, including St Cyres.

She reminded Coun John Huw Williams that he was at one time her boss, but for this year the tables are turned.

Coun Margaret Hayley signs up for her year in office, watched by community clerk Michael Goodfellow.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT BARRY-TODAY .CO.UK

Local man becomes Barry Commodore

THE new commodore at Barry Yacht Club is Steve Tipples.

He takes up the senior officer position at the club where he has been a member since 1996. Originally a fishing boat member at the club, he has since developed a wider interest in sailing.

Barry-born and bred, Steve (42) is an operations director with engineering plastics company Ensinger.

Reflecting on his ambitions for the club, Steve said: "We are aiming to welcome more new members, both for sailing and also social members, who want to use our excellent clubhouse and enjoy our extensive social programme."

Barry Yacht Club is a not-for-profit organisation and was established in 1928.

It currently has more than 250 members from all parts of the Vale and Cardiff, attracting yachtsmen from as far afield as Bristol and Birmingham.

The club offers various types of membership including sailing, fishing, cadet, or social members.

The yacht club is based at The Pier Head Docks on Barry Island, and has some of the best sea sailing facilities in the Bristol Channel.

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk or by calling 01446 735511.

Steve Tipples.

Bee research wins the Wenvoe institute vote

NEWS FROM WENVOE WI

FIVE resolutions were on the agenda at resolution selection conferences earlier this year.,

Evidently funding for bee health research was the most popular, followed by residential fees for the care of the elderly and the effect of polyclinics on existing GP practices, especially in rural areas.

For what to many seems an inexplicable decision by the NFWI, these three resolutions were not up for discussion at our resolutions meeting, only the resolution about bee health.

On May 7, we duly discussed and passed it unanimously.

The rest of the evening was taken up with a most enjoyable beetle drive. The raffle winner was Irene Calford.

Our thanks to WI members from Wenvoe and elsewhere, the table holders and the general public who supported our tabletop sale on May 9.

Due to European parliament elections, the community centre is unavailable on June 5; we will, instead, be meeting at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm when Rachel George will demonstrate 'dangly bits of jewellery'.

New and non-members welcome.

Local AM says biomass site visit 'essential'

VALE AM Jane Hutt, has said that a site visit is essential for the Vale Council's planning committee to consider a proposed biomass plant in Barry.

She said: "As a result of representations made by local residents and discussion at public meetings, I have raised a number of questions about the impacts of the proposed biomass plant, with the company promoting the plant, and the Minister Jane Davidson AM.

"It is vital that questions on environmental and traffic impacts are answered in full and a site meeting would be valuable for the committee to consider this application, which has raised many concerns."

Picturing the Vale at Barry exhibition

A NEW exhibition – Picturing the Vale – has been opened by Coun Margaret Alexander at the Travellers Gallery in Barry Station Café.

The café is a work experience project managed by Mind in the Vale, and it has also doubled as an art gallery since 2004, supported by VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) 14 of whose members are showing their work in the current exhibition.

Coun Alexander and Paul Clarke welcomed the recent renewal of VOGA's collaboration with Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Travellers gallery and cafe opens on Monday to Friday, at 7am-1pm. The exhibition closes on July 6. Future plans include open exhibitions.

For further information, call 01446 730792 or look on www.mindinthevale.org.uk and www.voga.org.uk.

Coun Margaret Alexander opening the exhibition with Paul Clarke (left) director of Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan, and Eve Hart (right) vice-chair of VOGA.

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Thank you to John Smith MP

AS a Liberal Democrat activist and former Conservative Association chairman to Raymond Gower, MP for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan 1951-1989, I must say that John Smith MP, though Labour, has followed the late Sir Raymond's service to the constituency admirably.

The Vale is fortunate to have had him and be spared the dreadful sequence of Conservative candidates who were put up against him: Rod Richards, Walter Sweeney and Alun Cairns.

Mr Smith, your retirement is well-earned. Thank you!

Roger Everest, Talygarn

Spare my phobia!

FOLLOWING the photograph in last week's GEM of the lost boa constrictor in Starling Road, I fully appreciate this is a free country and people should be allowed to keep whatever pet they want in their own home – but, please, if you have a snake, try **not to lose it!**

Be extra vigilant, because if it came anywhere near my house, I would be going out in a hearse.

I don't think for a minute that I am the only person who has a phobia about snakes.

Mrs Davies, Boverton

Respect for the Gurkhas

AS a World War Two veteran, I have enormous respect for the Gurkhas.

I never had the good fortune of serving with them, but do know quite a lot about them.

In view of the current interest over their right to stay in Britain, I thought your readers would be interested in the following information.

During World War 2, five battalions of Gurkhas served in the Burma campaign.

At full strength, a battalion is 883 men. Between them they won 218 decorations, including a great many 'mentions in despatches'.

This is a record that many crack British regiments would be proud of, and this was just Burma!

The Gurkhas served in many other places as well, including the Middle East and Italy, but I have no information about those campaigns.

Mr E.J Renton, Barry

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Charitable organisation offers help to Armed Forces veterans

AS the 65th anniversary of D-Day approaches, it is a time to reflect on the courage of those who fought so bravely to protect our way of life.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies landed more than 150,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy. Thousands of young men were lost that day, but it was to be a significant turning point in the Second World War and we owe all those who risked their lives a great debt.

More than six decades later, many of those veterans may now need our help. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help supports those who serve, those who used to serve and their families.

We have proudly assisted thousands of servicemen and women and their families in times of need, from the war widow facing hardship to the elderly veteran with crippling mobility problems.

At a time when British troops are once again facing terrible danger, SSAFA continues to provide vital support when and where it is most needed, recently opening accommodation for the relatives of young servicemen and women returning home from overseas operations with serious and life-threatening injuries.

Each year, the charity's dedicated staff and volunteers assist more than 50,000 people nationwide. In 2008, SSAFA Forces Help's mid-Glamorgan branch assisted 230 people with a range of needs, providing mobility vehicles and home adaptations for the elderly and disabled, and war pensions, and making friendship visits to the lonely, ill or bereaved.

Just one day's paid service in any of our Armed Forces or Reserve Forces qualifies you for a lifetime of support from SSAFA. This includes anyone who has done National Service, close relatives, widows and widowers.

If you think SSAFA Forces Help can assist you or someone you know, please contact the mid Glamorgan branch on 01656 785435or visit *www.ssafa.org.uk* for further information.

Dave Davies, SSAFA

'EXPENSES FIASCO SHOULD INSTIGATE NEED FOR REFORM'

I REFER to the MPs' expenses saga, the resulting public reaction and the criticism of our local politicians and council.

It seems to me that the common thread is the lack of openness and absence of scrutiny, and that includes the disaster associated with our financial and banking system. Self-interest will thrive behind closed doors.

My initial reaction to the expenses fiasco was a lack of surprise, followed by anger with regard to some particular abuses, but perhaps we need to see this as the opportunity for a new start. I'm no Liberal, but I think Nick Clegg got it right when he said that this is a once in a generation moment to change politics for good, and I believe there is a lot to change.

This expenses debacle is a symptom of more basic problems and, in that context, we need to fundamentally reform the way we do politics. There is no guillotine on King Square yet, but I sense a bit of a revolution taking place.

Let us hope that the politicians face up to it and tackle the underlying malaise within our democratic systems.

Politicians are an easy target for criticism, but I know that there are some genuine and well meaning people among them. My prescription for the others is to have the hubris and self-interest clinically removed, together with three humility tablets daily.

Public scepticism extends further than national politics. For many in the Barry community, it's also about what is happening locally and the frustration they feel about our local politicians and county council.

Failure to hold the council's cabinet to account and how local activists select candidates for election, needs to be extremely high on any programme of reform.

Dennis Harkus, Barry

Why do Llantwit First mayors go missing?

I AM no longer a councillor at any level, but still a member of a political party.

I feel I must reply to Coun Gwyn John's letter in The GEM (May 14).

If you look at the last five Llantwit First members who became Mayor, we see the following:

M Kirwan – left office mid-term; D Lane – served full term, left Llantwit First; R Hutchinson – served full term, no longer active Llantwit First; R Downe – Llantwit First Mayor and now Independent; M Lane – served full term as Mayor, left Llantwit First.

On the past record, if any more Llantwit First members become mayor, they will not have anyone left in the group!

As for Coun John, changing sides is one of his habits: Referendum Party, Tory and then Llantwit First.

Glyn David, Llanmaes

Barry MilkMates says 'thanks' for your support

BARRY MilkMates would like to express our thanks to the author of the letter in The GEM dated May 14 .

It means a lot to know that what we do really does make a difference.

The author captured the essence of why the group was set up in the first place and also why it is now run independently and entirely by volunteers.

We would like to invite more breastfeeding mums and mums to be who are thinking of breastfeeding to come along.

We would also like to invite anyone who would like to volunteer and be trained as a peer support worker to come and visit us.

We can be found at St Davids Methodist Church, Winston Road on Thursdays between 1pm-3pm.

Andrea Walker, Barry MilkMates

'Worldwide Knit' comes to Llantwit

JUNE 13 is 'Worldwide Knit-in Public Day' and Llantwit Major Stich 'n Bitch group is planning to make this an event in the town by knitting in public.

We will be outside Il Vesuvio, where we regularly meet.

As well as knitting, we'll be bringing our crochet and our embroidery – all forms of stitchery in fact!

We'll also be bringing a stash of wool and needles in case anyone wants to have a go for the first time, or get back into the habit!

The aim of the event is to show how many different people make so many different kinds of things - woolly jumpers yes, but also handbags, coats, hats, cushions and even mobile phone cosies!

In these credit crunchy times it makes more sense to make your own clothes - unique and a perfect fit - than buy yet more disposable fashion.

At SNB meetings, people are making everything from shawls to rugs with materials ranging from old T-shirts to handspun wool. One stitcher explained that "learning to crochet was really easy, and in the last couple of months I've made presents for friends and clothes for myself."

For more information go to llmstitchnbitch.wordpress.com.

Liz Hayes, Llantwit Major

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Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

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WESTON: VISIT SEA-LIFE
SATURDAY JUNE 6 Leave 10am back 7.30pm
Visit Clevedon £15 Or enjoy a day trip to the seaside at Weston-Super-Mare £19.95. Include an exciting visit to the fascinating Sea-Life Centre –inclusive fare £25

SHORT TRIP - HOLM ISLANDS
SATURDAY JUNE 6 Leave 3.15pm back 5.30pm
Steam round the 'Channel Islands' of Steep Holm & Flat Holm – see the towering cliffs - seabirds & lighthouse - ONLY £9.95!

EVENING SHOWBOAT
SATURDAY JUNE 6 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm
SATURDAY JUNE 13 Leave 8pm back 11.30pm
Don't miss the famous Evening Showboats with live music onboard! Jun 6 - cruise Somerset Coast; June 12 cruise River Usk & illuminated Transporter Bridge £19 Groups of 6 or more enjoy a special fare – only £17

LUNDY ISLAND • ILFRACOMBE • RAILWAY
Jun 7 - Annual Church Service on Lundy Island
SUNDAY JUNE 7 Leave 9.30am back 9pm
FRIDAY JUNE 12 Leave 8.15am back 10pm
Visit Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £27. Or view the spectacular Exmoor Coast & visit Lundy Island - explore this enchanting National Trust Island with spectacular views - seabirds - Church of St. Helena & Marisco Tavern - Inclusive fare £39.95 On Jun 7 you can cruise to Ilfracombe and then join the coach for the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway in North Devon – a picturesque narrow gauge railway - & visit Lynmouth, the Switzerland of England – inclusive fare £39

STEAM RAILWAY & MINEHEAD
Jun8 - See Tornado Steam Train!
MONDAY JUNE 8 Leave 9.15am back 7.45pm
SATURDAY JUNE 20 Leave 8.30am back 7pm
Enjoy a Paddle Steamer cruise to Clevedon to join the West Somerset Railway for a 20 mile trip through beautiful countryside & 9 charming country stations and spend the afternoon in Minehead £35

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ILFRACOMBE - GLORIOUS DEVON
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MONDAY JUNE 8 Leave 9.15am back 7.45pm
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 Leave 10am back 8pm
SATURDAY JUNE 13 Leave 12noon back 8pm
THURSDAY JUNE 18 Leave 11.15am back 6.30pm
SATURDAY JUNE 20 Leave 8.30am back 7pm
Day trips to Glorious Devon- visit the seaside at Ilfracombe £27 SC £25 Or sail to Ilfracombe & stay aboard for the afternoon cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 On Jun 20 you can stay aboard & enjoy an afternoon cruise along the Atlantic Coast £33 Jun 8 & 18 – Ilfracombe only. Victorian Festival at Ilfracombe Jun 6 – 14

STEAM RAILWAY & MINEHEAD
See Tornado Steam Train!
FRIDAY JUNE 12 Leave 8.15am back 10pm
Visit Minehead £21 SC £19 Or cruise to Minehead and join the steam train for a trip through beautiful Somerset countryside & 9 charming country stations £35

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Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Alan Meyrick – **69 High Street, Barry** – change existing single door to double doors on side elevation with roller shutter screen covering opening. Roller shutter screen to be boxed as existing screens. Rendering rear brick wall to rear elevation.
Mr Martyn Beswick - **8 Afal Sur, Pencoedtre** – construction of detached double garage to front and side of property.
Mr John Jones – **Ael-y-Bryn, Bakers Lane, Llantwit Major** – replacement storm porch and extensions serving rear elevation.
DA Thomas & Sons – **Old Wallace Farm, Duffryn, St Nicholas** – portal framed cattle shed. Approximately 27.432 x 21.336 x 3.66 to eaves (6,518 to ridge).
Mr Andrew Barlow – **46 Adenfield Way, Rhoose** – extension to rear of bungalow (single storey) and part conversion of garage.
Mr Chris Lakin – **Plot 3, Highlight Lane, Barry** – new dwelling.
Mitchells & Butlers Retail Limited – **Barons Court Public House, Penarth Road, Penarth** – install new signs.
Mr Mathias Maurer – **6 Gaspard Place, Barry** – demolition of existing flat roof extension and construction of new living room extension to rear of dwelling.
Mitchells & Butlers Retail Limited – **Barons Court Public House, Penarth Road, Penarth** – install new signs and external alterations.
Ms Yvonne Walton – **Ydfa, Corntown, Bridgend** – rustic summerhouse and open verandah (and to remove railway wagon from site).
Mr Brynley Taylor – **24 Ceri Road, Rhoose** – single storey extension across rear of property.
Mr Ian Paul – **Unit 10, Palmerston Workshops, Palmerston Road, Barry** – proposed window to front elevation at first floor mezzanine level.
Miss Lorna Hanshaw – **8 Church View, Llanblethian** – single storey extension (no change of use).
Mr Stephen Mackenzie – **5 Trem Y Don, Barry** – lean-to conservatory to rear elevation of property.
Mr Martin Rees – **The Coach House, Michaelston-le-Pit** – proposed new combined hay and machinery storage and dry bedded cattle housing building.
Mr Robert Hubbard – **Church Farmhouse, Monknash** – creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking.
Mr David James – **29 Heol Pilipala, Rhoose** – to convert attached garage to a room.
Mr Clifford Dye – **1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – two ATMs bearing the name Lloyds TSB and the word Cashpoint.
Mr Clifford Dye – **1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – proposed to build a small extension adjoining a modern extension to the rear of the listed building, which will serve for the installation of two new Automated Teller Machines (ATM).
Mr Richard Gibb – **Church Cottage, The Square, Colwinston** – refurbishment and extension of dwelling.
Mr and Mrs M Howley – **52 Meadow Vale, Barry** – special needs adaptations; single storey bedroom en suite/lobby with associated ramped access works.
Mr L Peacock – **5 Ridgeway Road, Barry** – construction of new two storey extension (including porch/lean-to to front elevation) and single storey extension to rear of dwelling (amendment to 2006/00600/FUL).
Mr Peter Llewellyn – **Ty Draw Bungalow, Picketston, St Athan** – retrospective permission for lean-to mixed use livestock shed.
Mr John Coombes – **121 Plassey Street, Penarth** – proposed dormer (flat roof) to rear of property.
Mr Jones – **3 Church Hill Close, Llanblethian** – conservatory to rear elevation.
Mr John Mills – **13 Kemeys Road, Rhoose** – proposed first floor extension to bungalow.
Mr Aklas Miah – **28 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – retention of takeaway.
Mr Andrew Williams – **Redlands Court Farm, Five Mile Lane, Bonvilston** – retention of agricultural worker's dwelling as built on site, as a variation to approved application 03/0082/FUL, including alterations to the dwelling's position, curtilage and access from the approved details.
Mr WJC Coles – **Bryn Ceiliog, Leckwith Hill, Leckwith** – proposed two storey extension to rear of property.
More local planning applications appear on page 23.

Vale councillor claims victory on use of sunbeds

VALE councillor, Rob Curtis, has welcomed a Vale Council u-turn after calling for a ban on all council-run sunbeds.

In a report, which was requested by Coun Curtis, to the council's economy and environment scrutiny committee held yesterday (May 27), officers have recommended that "The council withdraws all sunbeds from its leisure centres."

Coun Curtis commented: "I welcome the council's u-turn on this issue. This is a small but vital victory for common sense.

"Just a few weeks ago, the council was refusing to withdraw its sunbeds, using the argument of individual choice, but I really suspect that the £15,000 profit they were making from them had something to do with their reluctance.

"Damage from UV builds up over time. Every time young people use a sunbed they are harming their skin and increasing their risk of cancer.

"Out of the 22 Welsh councils, 18 have decided to withdraw the sunbed service from its leisure centres. It is a disgrace that the Tory-controlled Vale Council have taken so long to wake up to the danger that sunbed use poses to leisure centre users."

'Beware lottery scams' police warning in Vale

POLICE in the Vale are warning the public about a potential lottery scam.

It follows a report of a Barry man in his late 70s sending some of his personal details to a Spain-based organisation after he received a letter from a company called Euromillones Loteria Internacional.

He became suspicious when he was asked to pay 2,000 euros to enable him to claim a cash prize of more than £1.5 million. He has since received a number of telephone calls from the company.

PCSO Alex Mackay said: "From time to time we get reports of people receiving letters from a Spanish lottery advising them that they have won hundreds of thousands of Euros. We believe this is a complete fraud and the letter should be put in the bin."

If anyone has similar concerns they should contact their local trading standards department or Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 for further advice.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic and Postcard Society is holding its spring fair at Highlight Park Community Centre (next to Tesco's), Port Road, Barry, on Saturday, May 30, at 10am-4.30pm.

Dealers are selling and buying. Admission is 5p. *For further details telephone 01446 741026.*

Gardens open

ON Sunday, May 31, at 10am-5pm, one of the gardens open for charity under the National Gardens Scheme is Bordervale Plants, Ystradowen.

Teas and homemade cakes in aid of Bobath Children's Therapy Centre.

Parking on road, past corner. Admission: £2.50 (children admitted free).

Active8 day

A SECOND Active8 day is being held at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on June 13, from 11am-3pm.

Anyone interested in getting more details or taking part, should contact Lynn Osborne at the school on 01446 790732.

Victoria Park dog show walkers make a double cheque presentation

VICTORIA Park dog walkers presented two cheques this week – £622 was presented to the Bridgend Dogs Trust at Victoria Park, and a cheque for £622 was given to the PDSA.

The money was raised at the highly successful Victoria Park Dog Show which was held on May 3.

Competitors and spectators came from all over the Vale.

Nigel Cockram, on behalf of the organisers, commented:

"I would like to thank everyone who helped in organising the event, local companies and shops for sponsoring the show, and the Vale Council and park staff for their support, too."

ABOVE: Victoria Park dog walkers presented two cheques to animal welfare charities.

MORE THAN 2,000 VIEWS OF COUPLE'S DRAMATIC VIDEO!

The 'brilliant orbs' remains a mystery, despite the theories

THE couple from Barry who videoed the 'brilliant orbs' in the evening sky above the town in April, still think the objects remain a mystery.

Steve and Gill Ryan captured the image of the two bright round lights on Cardiff Road on a Samsung mobile phone.

It can be viewed by going to U-Tube and searching for 'Barry UFO'.

A number of people have been in touch with The GEM with their theories, which include flares, lanterns, or the landing lights of an aircraft.

Gill said: "We're not convinced that what we saw was any of those things.

"The way they move and the fact that at one stage the light goes out and then comes back on doesn't seem to fit the idea of flares or lanterns.

"If it had been the landing lights of an aircraft, we would have expected to have heard something and the lights to have moved more."

Two particular things make the two minute-five second video an intriguing film: the lights hover in the air and disappear only to reappear seconds later in an entirely different position in the sky, and one of the orbs shoots out what appears to be three black objects.

Gill said: "Friends and neighbours have looked at it and no-one seems to have an explanation yet.

"People are obviously passing on news of the video to friends in Barry, because there are more than 2,000 hits on the site."

The video is very similar to a 'UFO sighting' in east Yorkshire which is on U-Tube, but so far it does not seem that the mystery is any closer to being solved!

ABOVE:
This is the moment at one minute 45 seconds into the video when black objects appear to be ejected from the ball of light – Gill and Steve, who recorded the video, say they have yet to be convinced by any of the theories put forward to explain the strange phenomenon.

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Evenlode Primary pupils are top tennis aces in Vale

PUPILS from Evenlode Primary School in Penarth have proven to be the Vale's top tennis aces by winning six out of nine events in a county-wide primary schools championships.

Held at three Vale tennis clubs, the championships were organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Dragon Sport team in conjunction with Tennis Wales and featured teams of four players competing in three different age groups.

Evenlode won both the girls and boys titles in the year six and under (mini green) competition at Dinas Powys LTC, with the pupils from St Andrews Major C/W Primary School taking glory in the mixed event.

It was a clean sweep for Evenlode in the year five and under (mini orange) age group as they won all three finals at Windsor LTC, while in the youngest age group – year three and under (mini red) – Evenlode also tasted success in the girls' competition, with Albert Primary winning the boys title and Llansannor triumphing as the mixed champions.

All of the winners will now go forward to represent the Vale in the regional finals later this summer.

The Dragon Sport initiative aims to get primary school pupils active from a young age by encouraging greater numbers of seven to 11-year-olds to take part in extra-curricular sport.

ABOVE & BELOW:Budding tennis aces who played in theVale of Glamorgan primary schools championships.

LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL DEPUTIES HEAD OFF FOR A VISIT TO SENEDD

WITH the 10th anniversary of the National Assembly for Wales in the calendar this month, a visit by the deputy heads of Barry primary schools was warmly welcomed by Jane Hutt, Vale AM and Education Minister.

Many deputy heads on a tour organised by All Saints Primary deputy head, Claire Lewis, had already visited the Senedd with their pupils, but this visit included questions and discussion with the Education Minister on a range of topics.

Jane Hutt said: "I value the work and leadership of all our school headteachers.

"Their deputies play a vital role in the whole school team. The visit to the Senedd provided an opportunity for us to discuss important current developments in education, such as the Foundation Phase now being rolled out across Wales.

"I was able to congratulate them on their work and urge them to seek headships in the coming months and years to put their skills and experience into top education jobs in Wales."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM, with the Barry Deputy headteachers at the Senedd.

The Rhoose Pub Watch welcomes latest member

ABOVE: Diane Scourfield, landlady of The Highwayman public house, is pictured with Rhoose PCSO Lewis Collins (left) Nigel John of the Rhoose Flying Club and Vale Licensing Officer PC Dave Barrett (right).

LICENSEES from across Rhoose gathered at the Highwayman Pub for this month's Pub Watch meeting to discuss problems and issues they believe may arise through the coming months.

As well as discussing matters of general concern and plans for monitoring those people who are banned from licensed premises in the area, they were able to welcome a new member to the initiative.

Rhoose Flying Club is the latest business to become part of the Pub Watch initiative and will collaborate with all the other members in the area to ensure the best service is offered to customers.

PCSO Lewis Collins of the Rhoose neighbourhood policing team said: "We are delighted to welcome Rhoose Flying Club to the Pub Watch scheme as it creates a safer environment for others and displays a message to those of the community who may wish to cause trouble that their behaviour will not be tolerated and they will be banned from all the local licensed premises that are members of the scheme."

Fair dinkum! Aussies Rules heading for Barry RFC

THE Ashes and the Australians are coming to Cardiff in 2009 – and in 2010 Aussie Rules is coming to Barry!

It may have escaped the knowledge of Vale sports' fans, but there already is a Welsh Australian Rules Football League in south Wales.

Four teams, two from Cardiff and one each from Gwent and Swansea, compete in the league and their season has just begun.

It remains to be seen how Barry, a bastion of rugby and football, will welcome Aussie Rules, but the fact that it is played in the Welsh summer when those sports have a break may give it an appeal.

A league spokesman said: "In 2010 there will be a Barry and Vale team based at Barry Rugby Club and we are on the lookout for players and support staff.

"The season will kick off in April or May 2010.

"People don't have to have previous experience as structured training will be provided.

"It is a way of keeping fit through the summer, making new friends and to take part in a sport which is new to Wales."

For more information please call Bryce Stone on 02920 252542; or go to www.warfl.co.uk.

St Mary and St Cadoc summer fete

THE churches of St Mary and St Cadoc will this year be holding their annual summer fete on Saturday, June 12.

The fete will be held in St Cadoc's churchyard (Cadoxton Old Village Church) and will start at 2pm.

The stalls include craft, jewellery, White Elephant, bottle, cans, furniture, hot dogs, refreshments and wonderful cakes!

The Barry Brass Band will also be there to entertain. *Admission 25p.*

Close run thing for Romilly's bowlers at the Millwood club

BARRY Romilly Bowling Club first division side played away at Millwood Bowling Club in the WBA Curruthers Cup on a fine sunny Saturday afternoon.

The green did not look at its best and some rinks played better than others.

Both teams won two rinks each and Romilly won the aggregate 90-79.

Tony Freeman's rink of C Geen, G Eastment and P Gershenson were the hot shots on the day and led from start to finish for a grand 31-17 win.

Although Tony was full of praise for his team, it was apparent that Tony himself was in sparkling form on the day.

Dave Wright's rink of R Cowling, R Harkus and G Cogbill also had a good win on the day 25-18.

Although Romilly led from start to finish this game was no pushover.

The Millwood skip Roger Jones stayed calm throughout despite Romilly's salvos and went on to play some super winning draws and close up the scores to 19-18 after 18 ends.

However, Romilly won the last 3 ends and the match to their relief.

Brian Foscolo's rink of M Newman, D Bannister and M Doyle lost this rink and the Romilly skip concluded his team did play well, but the Millwood team led by Ben Parrish played better and deserved the 17-20 win.

Alan Bryan's rink of H Jones, R Hewitson and M Gershenson had a tough match despite being 11-2 up after eight ends.

Millwood got into the game and went ahead 17-19 after 20 ends, then got a five on the final end to win the rink 17-24.

RH

Carrie keeps tenpin trophy in the family

A TRIOS tenpin bowling league recently ended in April at the Rhondda Bowl with a team consisting of a 13-year-old girl, Carrianne Rogers, and a 14-year-old boy, Steven Taylor, narrowly missing out on winning the league shield for first place.

The children's team were beaten by Steven's dad's team consisting of Stephen Taylor senior and his sister Lisa.

The trios league is run by Kay Rogers and named after the previous secretaries, Len Robinson and Lez Rogers, both keen team Wales bowlers.

Carrianne, who attends Bryn Hafren and is from Barry, is Lez and Kay's daughter, so it's safe to say that she is following in their footsteps. She took the ladies high series handicap with her highest ever series of a 578, which is equivalent to a 193 average game, very impressive for a 13-year-old.

This was not enough for her, though, as she also walked away with the Len Robinson memorial trophy for the most improved player in the league. She started the league with a 131 average and finished it on a 147 average.

This trophy obviously likes staying in the family, having been won previously by both her mother and her father!

Carianne Rogers.

TOURISM WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN PLANS TO LEAD WALES OUT OF RECESSION

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

I HAD no doubt that Whitmore Bay would retain its Blue Flag status in this week's welcome announcements and the Penarth Marina was also good news!

With the latest report from our Welsh Assembly Government Visit Wales campaign showing that there is a good deal of interest in holidaying in Wales this summer, we must promote the attractions of the Vale of Glamorgan as part of this opportunity.

I recently hosted an event in the Senedd as part of Tourism Week and it was good to see the Heritage Coast featured as a major attraction.

Visit Wales was promoting Wales over the recent Bank holiday and half term week for visitors and holidaymakers to have a taste for the summer months when we are 'promised' better weather this year!

We are promoting tourism as part of our response to the economic downturn with a £19m boost to develop Heritage Tourism announced earlier this month.

Last week, the Minister for Heritage announced that around 60 tourism projects already awarded almost £10.5 million, form the Rural Development Plan Tourism, opening up opportunities in counties like the Vale of Glamorgan.

There have been two tourism summits this year alongside our economic summits, to strengthen working relationships between government and the tourism industry. Those involved in developing and delivering tourism opportunities in Wales are influencing government as an industry-led partnership develops.

The recent 'Response to the Recession' event organised by Barry College's Vale training partners (VGTA) addressed the importance of engaging with business in partnership, so that we can provide the right support when it is needed, using the levers of government to respond.

The First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, spoke about the 'social partnership' we have developed with business and the trade unions through the Wales-wide summits, at his recent Senedd lecture.

In my speech at the Barry College event I said, that it is important reflect on how and why this has been successful and how we can 'bottle it' for future progressive partnership working.

The proof that partnership works is tested by how agile and flexible government can be in meeting the needs of employers and their workforces. The most widely talked about measure we have introduced is Proact, providing a combination of training support and wage subsidy for businesses having to move to short-time working.

Backed with European funding throughout Wales, Proact has the potential to assist up to 12,000 people. I was pleased to introduce Proact in record time from concept in November 2008 to project delivery in January.

Now there are thousands of employees across Wales benefiting from the training provided and sustaining those businesses through to the uplift.

My focus over the next few weeks will be young people. Encouraging young people to stay in school and college is the key message.

We will tackle youth unemployment with our youth guarantee scheme - training and job opportunities, but we must also prevent it by assisting and supporting youngsters to progress in education.

So what are we doing? We have twice as many apprentices per head of the working population compared with England.

We have enhanced arrangements to protect existing apprentices or to find a new employer should they be released early by their employer.

From the summer, we will introduce a 'Young Recruits Programme' to help employers take on a new young apprentice, and we will be providing apprenticeships for those who want to benefit from apprenticeship training but have been unable to find a place.

We have also put more money into the careers service to support their vital advice and guidance role and increased our funding to further education colleges like Barry College.

Back to tourism and the role it can play at this time of economic uncertainty.

The results of the tourism industry survey following Easter Bank Holiday showed that 41 per cent of businesses have increased their guest/visitor numbers, and Easter attractions resulted in 73 per cent reporting an uplift in visitor numbers including more visits to Cadw sites of which we have a number in the Vale. Research is also showing that more people remembered seeing a Wales advert or promotion than any other UK destination.

There are jobs and training opportunities for our young people in tourism and Wales has everything to offer, especially in the Vale!

Vale AM's surgery

JANE HUTT AM will be holding a surgery on Saturday (May 30) at 115 High Street, Barry (10am-12noon).
No appointments are necessary.

CASH CRISIS FORCED CLOSURE OF BARRY CUSTODY SUITE - POLICE

THE cash crisis at South Wales Police forced the closure of the custody suite at Barry Police Station, it has been revealed.

A police spokesman said that the future of the suite was under review when the Police Authority's precept was being set.

As a result of a decision to refuse Chief Constable Barbara Wilding all the money she requested and set a lower precept, the suite will be closed.

The spokesman said that work costing up to £400,000 was needed to bring the cells at Barry up to acceptable standards and that money was not available.

He said that the police have no alternative but to move the prisoner handling services from Barry to a new 60-cell complex being built by police in Cardiff Bay, and due to open later this year.

Police are confident that the new facility will offer a more sophisticated, streamlined and efficient handling service for prisoners, but there are concerns about the time it will take police officers to take prisoners all the way to Cardiff.

Llantwit Major Town Council heard recently that officers sometimes took two to three hours to take prisoners to Barry and get them checked in, and this period of time could lengthen as Cardiff is further away.

This means that officers are away from front line policing duties while transporting prisoners and then waiting to book them in before travelling back.

There have been instances where towns like Llantwit have been left unpoliced for those periods.

With the impending merger of the Vale and Bridgend divisions, some prisoners from the western Vale, including Cowbridge, may be taken to Bridgend, instead of Cardiff, but the custody suite here is often full, with prisoners being taken to Port Talbot or, ironically, Barry in the past.

Police have met Vale Council officers to discuss the impact of the decision on probation and other support services.

Vale PACT meetings

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, June 1, 8pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, June 2, at 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerstone Community Learning Centre, June 3, at 7pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, June 3, at 7.30pm.

ST BRIDES PACT, St Brides church hall, June 3, at 6pm.

WENVOE PACT, Wenvoe Community hall, June 8, at 7.30pm.

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Railway company welcomes apprentices group to Barry base

THE Cambrian Group, parent company of Cambrian Transport Ltd, welcomed the UK Rail Apprenticeships Steering Group to Barry, where it is planning to create a national centre of excellence for rail and transport skills.

Earlier this year, Cambrian was selected by the Vale Council to take over the custodianship of the 43-acre site in Barry, which has extensive rail facilities.

Cambrian Group chairman, John Buxton, said: "I was pleased that we were able to play host to this month's meeting of this important industry group in Barry, and have the opportunity to give a tour of the site and to talk about our ambitious plans."

The Rail Apprenticeship Steering Group is facilitated by Sector Skills Council Go Skills, and is attended by key professionals involved in the delivery and planning of training across the UK rail industry. Cambrian also has a representative on the Group.

ABOVE: The photograph shows Cambrian Group chairman, John Buxton, with members of the Rail Apprenticeship Steering Group during their tour of Cambrian's facilities at Barry. The tour was undertaken in a road rail vehicle made available by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who are currently undertaking training at Cambrian's facilities.

CRAFT EXHIBITION SHOWCASES TALENTS OF LOCAL ARTISTS

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt, Minister for children, education, lifelong learning and skills, opened the arts and crafts exhibition by adult learners in the rural Vale on Friday, May 15.

The exhibition, held at St Donats Arts Centre, shows the diverse range of teaching and learning activities provided by Lifelong Learning in the rural Vale.

The work represents the wide range of courses in adult education centres and community venues, and shows the progression and confidence that can be achieved through part-time and day courses.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm until Friday, May 29.

Ms Hutt said: "A superb display of creative talent and skill was exhibited at St Donats Arts Centre, as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Learning Festival.

"I was pleased to play my part in congratulating the learners and their tutors, including Glyn Evans of The GEM, for their outstanding work.

"St Donats Arts Centre was an ideal venue for this exhibition and attracted many visitors to this excellent venue."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt with John Clarke.

ABOVE: The exhibits have drawn in a wide audience.

Flower arrangers meet

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club meets at 7.30pm on June 3, at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, when Margaret Walker will give a demonstration entitled 'My World of Colour'.

Llantwit coffee morning

AGE Concern's Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding a coffee morning on June 4, at the Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, from 10am-12noon.

Admission is £1.50 and this includes tea, coffee and biscuits (plus top ups).

There will be a variety of stalls, from home-made cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle.

Proceeds will go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 567.

● **£2000:** 383486. ● **£500:** 747777. ● **£100:** 857682. ● **£50:** 178914. ● **£10:** 610456, 192738, 792343, 365955, 262832, 509414, 864962, 502952, 840886, 802256, 185617, 225214, 415953, 778025, 255998, 563749, 769261, 405394, 409633, 447586. ● **£5:** 528029, 429038, 797277, 246951, 238130, 268233, 498952, 456103, 350966, 223784, 824808, 246567, 814695, 622995, 798518, 575485, 344009, 809970, 576753, 522919, 295268, 414318, 868485, 685683, 567693, 267019, 566301, 318875, 166543, 208248.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

'Made in Wales' CD promoted

THE singer-songwriter Rob Allen has just released his single 'Made in Wales' and was in the Vale earlier this week to promote it.

Rob appeared at The Three Horseshoes in Dinas Powys on Tuesday evening and spent time chatting with fans and signing the CD.

The single is available from download sites including HMV, Tesco and iTunes.

Rob supports Bobath Cymru and is donating 10 per cent of proceeds from the sales to the charity.

Vale AM joins Cog Moors celebration

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with children from Ysgol Treganna.

TO mark the recording of 100,000 young visitors to Welsh water education centres, Jane Hutt AM visited the Cog Moors education and environment centre to join pupils from Ysgol Treganna in a exciting 'Water Aid' project.

Afterwards, the Assembly Member for the Vale commented: "This is a milestone for Welsh Water, demonstrating the company's commitment to investing in our children's education in the Woodlands, alongside the education centre at Cog Moors".

Vale Council stages Dr Seuss exhibition

A HOST of colourful characters were on hand to help celebrate the opening of 'The Art of Dr Seuss' exhibition at Art Central in Barry recently.

The exhibition was officially opened by former Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston, ably assisted by the Cat in the Hat and the Grinch – two of Seuss' most successful characters.

Following a sell-out tour in the USA, the exhibition space secured a coup by becoming the first venue in Wales to host the exhibition, with support from the Arts Council of Wales.

An incredible range of prints, poetry, advertisements, cartoons, magazine cover designs, secret art and 'unorthodox taxidermy' sculptures from classics such as 'Green Eggs and Ham' and 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' are on display at the town hall venue, where the exhibition continues until June 6.

All ages are welcome, and during half-term there will be a series of 'fun factory' art workshops for children and young people running daily between 10am-4pm where you can take part in mask and hat making, storytelling, creative ceramics and other activities based on the Dr Seuss theme.

Art Central Oriel/Gallery is supported by the Arts Council for Wales and is based at the Town Hall, King Square, Barry.

The exhibition is open until this Saturday, 10am-4pm, and entry is free.

ABOVE: Former Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston, officially opened 'The Art of Dr Seuss' exhibition at Art Central recently, with help from some special guests!

St Athan woman's warning after vicious attacks on cats

OWNERS in St Athan are being urged to keep a watch on their pets, after two cats belonging to a local family were attacked.

A 15-month-old cat belonging to Michelle Inch and her boyfriend Sean Wilkin of Mallory Close was crammed into a plastic bag and then swung against a wall.

The terrified black and white cat, called Moo, was left with brain damage and was found huddled up against a wall by Sean on his way to work.

The couple are linking it to an earlier attack on their 10-month-old tabby called Misty, who they found dragging herself back home in agony with a broken leg and severe lacerations to another leg. She has now had her tail amputated and may have to lose one of her legs as a result of the injuries.

"We are horrified," said Michelle, 21, who runs a dog grooming and pet sitting service.

"When Misty was injured, we assumed she had been run over, or had an accident, but a neighbour witnessed the attack on Moo although he could not identify the culprit. This is making us think that somebody is out there attacking cats.

"The police are investigating but they are still gathering evidence."

Michelle has her main salon in Barry but was running the pet sitting service from home.

She said: "I have stopped that now because I have no idea if I am being targeted, or if it's a general problem.

"I am keeping both cats in. It has been very traumatic for them and for us."

The couple have paid out £1,500 in vets' bills and have had to use their savings. They have a one-year old daughter Brooke.

Sean is from St Athan and the couple live in one of the old RAF houses, which they have since purchased. Michelle, who is qualified in pet and animal care, is from Barry.

She urged anyone with information, or whose cat has been attacked, to contact local police.

A police spokesman confirmed that the incidents had been reported to them and were under investigation.

He said that anyone with information should contact Llantwit Major police station on 01656 869447.

A spokesman for the RSPCA commented that these were "appalling incidents" and urged cat owners, in particular those in St Athan, to be on their guard.

"It is unbelievable that people would commit such acts of cruelty on innocent pets. As a charity, we regularly prosecute those responsible for inflicting pain and suffering on animals.

"In this case, police are involved and I would urge anyone with information about the culprits to contact them," the spokesman added.

What's on in Dinas and Sully

Dinas Powys meeting

THE annual general meeting of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern will take place at the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, on June 10, at 7pm.

Copies of the annual report, the accounts and nomination papers will be available at the meeting.

Guild meeting

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will next meet on June 10, in Old School, Sully, at 7.30pm.

Sheila Cowling will be talking about 'Magical Mystical Alpacas and the Fibre of The Gods'. Sheila has her own flock of Alpacas and will bring some fleeces to sell.

For further details, telephone Jean Roberts on 02920 627326.

Rhoose woman's 'priority' plea for needs of disabled

by TIM CHAPMAN

A RHOOSE woman has called on the Vale Council to respond to requests for help by disabled people as a matter of priority.

Rhian Edwards, aged 28, suffers from a rare skin condition and limited mobility, and is helped in her daily routine by a carer.

She told The GEM: "I have a cupboard outside my flat which houses my rubbish.

"The top hinge has gone and when it is opened it comes down with a hell of a force.

"Because it is so heavy, health and safety dictates that it can't be opened."

The idea is that the rubbish is stored in the cupboard until the day of collection, and then Rhian's carer can put it out.

With the cupboard out of action, Rhian is storing the rubbish in the hallway.

"It is not nice breathing in the smell.

"When I phoned up the council to help they didn't seem to care.

"The man on the phone got shirty with me and so did a woman.

"My carer spoke to them and got the same response.

"Last week, they were due to turn up on the Tuesday, but didn't come. Finally on Friday a man came, but it was just to do a report, so I'm wondering how long it will take to sort out."

So far Rhian has had the problem for three weeks.

In 2005, Rhian's partner Paul, who later died of a brain tumour, had to wait for an extra banister rail for a month when the couple were frightened he would have a serious fall.

Rhian added: "I think there should be a council priority for the needs of disabled people."

At the time of going to press The GEM had not received a response from the Vale Council.

Annual walk a great success

NEWS FROM ST HILARY WI

PRIOR to the May meeting, 16 members took part in the group's annual walk around St Hilary and up on to The Downs.

When all had returned and settled gratefully into their seats, president Betty Thomas opened the meeting.

It will be St Hilary's turn to host the Link meeting in October and she asked for suggestions for a speaker and ideas for the entertainment.

Jenny Hughes, delegate to the council meeting in Swansea, then gave an interesting and comprehensive report on the proceedings.

The only resolution for the National AGM in June is entitled 'SOS for the Honey Bees'.

Bees play a vital role in pollinating plants on which humans and animals depend. As their numbers are in decline world wide, the resolution is asking the government for more money to fund research into bee health.

It is essential that the funding of research continues until a solution is found. After a brief discussion, voting for the resolution was unanimous.

Members later settled down to a Beetle Drive, organised by Kay Heath. The winners were Peta Keen, Sheila Davies, Shirley Arnold and Sian Deal.

The competition, for an item beginning with 'E', was won by Margaret Jones.

Next month's meeting will be at 7pm on June 9, in the Village Hall, when the speaker will be Linda Feagan from the Dogs' Trust, Bridgend.

Conman 'fleeced' widow (75)

A BARRY conman who tricked a widow out of her life savings has been jailed for three and a half years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kevin Strongman, 55, posed as a friend to 75-year-old Myra Walton before "systematically fleecing" her of nearly £20,000.

The court heard that Mrs Walton has been devastated by the theft – and it makes her "ill, tearful and upset" to talk about it.

Strongman had been known to her family for years and she believed him to be kind and generous, but he hid the fact that he had previous convictions for obtaining property by deception and forgery.

Mrs Walton – who was described as vulnerable – later told the police: "I never want to see him again."

Prosecutor Steve Harmes said Strongman had been a family friend for many years and Mrs Walton had even been on holiday with him and his relations.

However, after going into a care home two years ago, Mrs Walton placed her finances in his hands.

Strongman then repeatedly stole from her accounts – but it was not discovered until unpaid gas and electricity bills arrived at her care home.

Jonathan Brierly, representing Strongman, said: "He is deeply ashamed. There is very little to mitigate the facts."

He said Strongman had financial difficulties, gambled and lost control.

He said he was 70 per cent disabled, had had 17 operations on his spine and took 100 prescribed painkillers a day.

Mr Brierly said: "That is something horrific and it could have affected his moral sense.

"He is a man of straw and wants to repay each and every penny."

Strongman, of Field View Road, Barry, was jailed for three and a half years after admitting theft and fraud.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said he had "systematically fleeced" her accounts with Barclays, the Post Office, and Nationwide building society.

The judge told him: "This sentence reflects the public's disgust of the meanness of your offences.

"You assumed responsibility for the management of her financial affairs.

"At 75, she had no close family and trusted you.

"She now cannot look forward to a comfortable retirement to which she was entitled, and will become a person whom the taxpayer will have to support."

YOU MADE IT OLIVE – Happy 100th birthday!'

by ALFRED MILLS

ON May 1, I was privileged to be present to celebrate the 100th birthday of a lady I have known and grown up with for more than 80 years, Olive Pruce (nee Way).

Olive was one of a family of four, three girls and one boy – Rosie, Milly, herself and Silas (Sonny).

When she lived in Penmark she was great friends with my late wife Edith, who lived there as a young girl.

The family moved to Rhoose in 1924 to a modern house at Rhoose Road, and Olive, who had left school, obtained work as a housemaid at Reader's Farm in the village.

When I was a schoolboy I had a little job on Saturday mornings at Reader's Farm cleaning out the chicken coops from 9am-12noon, for which I was paid 2/6 (two shillings and sixpence).

On finishing my duties I reported to Olive and duly received my 2/6 plus a cup of tea and a cake!

Rhoose then being a small village, meant we often met at summer and village events.

Olive's husband Albert and I were mates from attendance at Porthkerry School. He met and courted Olive and I met the girl who I eventually married – Olive introduced me to her.

Later in life we visited Olive and Bert and on occasions Olive came to Barry, when their schooldays were often remembered and reminiscences were duly forthcoming.

Although poor health has troubled her over her later years, Olive has triumphed and reached this landmark and I look forward to many more visits to Springbank to see how she is getting on.

Dyffryn Gardens gives busy bees helping hand

AFTER many decades of absence, new bee hives are being established at Dyffryn Gardens in the Vale.

The new apiary has been installed as part of a project partnership between the Vale Council and Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Bee Keepers Association.

It will be located in a private area of the stately home's grounds, which will ensure the bees can visit Dyffryn's vast range of trees, plants and flowers.

Coun Gordon Kemp, leader of the Vale Council, commented: "We are delighted to have this new partnership at Dyffryn. With the ongoing restoration of the Edwardian kitchen walled garden and the opportunity for future visitors to not only enjoy the gardens but savour the taste of its produce, the addition of our very own honey will be an absolute treat."

ABOVE: Bee keeper Harold Williams, Coun Gordon Kemp and Barbara Chick from the Bee Keepers Association.

Within the gardens, the association is also providing a traditional period-style display hive, which would normally be found in a kitchen garden. For safety reasons, the hive is sealed and will not contain bees, but contains all other constituent parts and the public will be allowed to lift the roof to look inside.

John King, chairman of Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Bee Keepers Association, added: "Public awareness has been growing regarding the fragility of bee colonies and their declining populations.

"Having new colonies established here and the future opportunity to use Dyffryn to teach the craft of bee keeping to members of the public can only help redress this decline."

Another GEM winner

MRS Chris White from Barry was the recent winner of the Wordsearch competition run by The GEM.

Mrs White won a Stihl HSE51 electric hedgetrimmer supplied by David Evans Agricultural Ltd.

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Richard Jenkins, parts sales manager, presents Mrs Chris White with her prize.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

SEARCHING FOR THOSE LOST COMPUTER FILES

KEVIN packed a lot into his recent talk; asked to speak on three topics, he managed to include a fourth one, giving rise to a longer evening (much enjoyed) and a report in two parts, of which this is the second.

System Restore was one topic and Kevin made several points to eliminate any confusion about what it does. The operating system is busy working in the background all the time using the settings that exist at the moment. If these settings are changed by, say, installing a new programme, then you may well not know what changes have been made in the background.

If everything continues to work well, you have no problem. Occasionally, however, things can go haywire and you tear out your hair. System Restore enables you to turn the clock back to an earlier time when everything was behaving. For this, you will need to have System Restore Points.

A Restore Point is automatically created whenever you install new software, or at a time of your choosing, System Restore makes a note of settings and saves them in a dated file. To create a System Restore point, click on the desktop and press F1 for Help and Support Centre.

Under 'Pick a Task' click on 'Undo changes with System Restore' and follow the instructions in the dialogue box to say if you want to create a new one, or restore an existing one. The calendar will show in bold the dates for which a restore point exists.

You can go back to a time before the problem arose and use a restore point that pre-dates the problem. Note that only system files are affected – no alterations will be made to any of your data files and you will not lose any saved edits to documents.

Kevin then reviewed the process of finding files.

Windows has a very powerful Search facility to find it. In XP it is at Start > Search and the search starts on request. In Vista it is at the bottom of the main menu and runs the moment you start typing, but you will have to go to the advanced options to refine the search criteria.

Searches results are improved by the use of 'wild cards' in the information you provide. There are only two. A question mark (?) stands for any single character at that location. An asterisk (*) stands for any number of characters at that location. (Don't type the brackets.)

The power of the wild cards depends upon how well they are used to indicate what you are looking for. The more information given to identify the file being sought, the more likely it will be found.

If in doubt about any part of the file name, use the wild cards and identify only the characters about which you are sure. The more accurate and specific you can be, the fewer results will be returned among which will be your target.

File names have three components: the filename; a dot and an extension usually of three letters (Word 2007 now uses four letters (*.docx)). The filename is created by you to identify the file to yourself.

The extension is normally supplied by the software and used to identify the type of file to the computer so that it knows which programme to use to open it. The essential 'dot' is a mark to separate the other two elements.

If you know the exact filename, then you will get only that file together with it full location information. (You might get more if files with the same name are stored in other folders as well.) Other examples are:

. will return every file. (Don't do it - it's pointless!)

a*.* will return all filenames starting with the letter 'a'.

a*.doc will return a shorter list of Word documents.

*a.doc will return all Word filenames ending in 'a'.

c*s.doc will return all Word filenames that begin with 'c' and end with 's'.

???d will return any filename where the 4th letter is 'd'.

Make the selection to suit your own file-naming system for best results. Remember that clicking on the column heading in the results window will order the results in different ways to make scanning long lists easier.

You can also choose to search for a word or phrase within the file. It takes longer, but picking a word that you know is in the file will help ˆ such as a person,s name. It is also simple to narrow the search to a selected drive or a section of it (such as My Documents) to reduce the time taken.

There are other means of narrowing the search. The search can be refined if you have a rough idea of when the file was created. In this instance it is possible to insert dates, so that if you are sure it was created last October, you can say so.

Penarth Computer Club next meets on Tuesday, June 9 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Mike will talk about home video - shooting, editing and showing. Visitors and new members are welcome.

For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND

'Stay and Play' at Howells School

A NEW 'Stay + Play' session has started at Howell's Junior School in Llandaff.

This weekly session is open to the public for parents, grandparents and carers of babies and toddlers.

Mrs Judith Ashill, head of the Nursery and Junior School, said: "Our sessions so far have gone very well. It has been lovely to see babies and toddlers having fun and for their carers to meet new people."

Here are some of the visitor comments from the Stay + Play sessions: "There was a warm and friendly welcome"; "Bright and safe environment"; "Lovely 'feel' of space"; "a relaxed, informal atmosphere, I would definitely come again".

The friendly and welcoming staff in the Junior School run the session.

The group is held on Tuesday mornings 9.45am-11.15am (term time only); cost: £2.50 for first child and £1.50 for second child.

Refreshments are included and there is on-site car parking.

For more information, please call Louise Weaver on 029 2026 1832.

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NURTURING EXCELLENCE

Llanbethery hog roast beats elements

WHEN the morning of May 17 opened with torrential rain, many of the village residents who had worked so hard to arrange the annual village party really thought that a cancellation was likely. .

Luckily the rain abated and in spite of a few showers, there were sunny spells (although the temperature was on the chilly side).

Tents had been erected in Mike Pritchard's field and with each villager and their guests bringing their own drinks it wasn't long before there was a very jolly atmosphere.

Thanks to Peter and Sharon Fry we were entertained by two 'International Stars'.

First, returning from her recent tour, was Rhondda Tannoy, the well known Diva.

With Sharon accompanying him, we were very fortunate to have Noel Hernandez, the up-and-coming young Mexican tenor, who sang a selection from various operas, much to the admiration of the audience.

The hog was superb as was the range of salads to embellish it. All in all, a great time was had by all.

Our thanks go to the organising committee and especially to Mike for providing his field and equipment yet again.

SAM SMITH

NEVER MIND THE WEATHER, NEVER MIND THE RAIN..!

International Glaucoma Association iga

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

June 8-14, 2009

Glaucoma website offers a free service with up-to-date news and information

THE *www.glaucoma-association.com* website is a comprehensive source of up-to-date news and information about glaucoma, and is provided as a free service by the International Glaucoma Association (IGA).

The IGA is a patient-based organisation which works to prevent glaucoma blindness by providing information, literature and advice.

It provides support to thousands of glaucoma sufferers and is a UK-based non-governmental organisation, and a charity registered in Wales and England.

It is committed to preventing unnecessary loss of sight through the condition, which is one of the most common eye disorders.

It arranges meetings in the UK which are open to all, twice a year, and provides a regular newsletter to members and their friends, as well as overseeing a network of support groups and fund research into the causes and treatment of glaucoma. The results are then distributed to interested parties.

National Glaucoma Awareness Week runs from June 8-14.

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PAST JEWSONS, STRAIGHT ACROSS NEXT ROUNDABOUT, LEFT AT GREENBANKS CARE GROUP

All Saints' pupils study glories of the natural world

ABOVE: These pupils enjoyed their outdoor learning experience.

BELOW: With their eyes covered, the pupils were encouraged to use their other senses in the woods.

THE Key Stage 1 pupils of All Saints Primary School have once again been exploring their outdoor learning environment with a visit to Cwm Talwg Woods.

Led by Sheena O'Leary, the Forestry Commission's education ranger, the year-2 pupils enjoyed a minibeast hunt and studied a range of habitats.

They collected various living things and observed them in magnified pots, before carefully releasing them.

They enjoyed role play and creative activities to reinforce their learning.

The year-1 pupils enjoyed a lesson in 'Forest senses', during which they used their eyes, ears, noses and hands to explore the woodland environment.

All the pupils had an important lesson in conservation and the importance of observing and caring for the natural world.

Teachers Mrs Martin and Mrs Johnson thanked Sheena for once again enhancing the children's scientific studies in such an interesting and memorable way.

ROAD WORKS

Dock View Road at its junction with Thompson Street, Barry – ongoing temporary traffic signals, to allow construction work on the adjacent footbridge over the railway line.

The Ty Hafan Run takes place at Barry Island on Sunday, May 31 – Station Approach road (between Breaksea Drive and Friars Road), Friars Road (between Station Approach and Paget Road) and Paget Road (between the un-named road that leads to the sports ground and its cul-d-sac end) will be closed to vehicles between 7.30am-1pm.

Various roads in Llantwit Major town centre – will be closed between 8am-6pm, on Saturday, June 20, for the Victorian fayre.

Consultation on land at Penarth

VALE residents are to be given the opportunity to comment on how the land surrounding the Severn Estuary should be managed in years to come.

Interested parties will be able to put their views across at a consultation meeting which will take place at the Paget Rooms in Penarth on Wednesday, June 10, from 2pm-6pm.

There is no registration process and you can simply turn-up on the day to have your say.

Issues to be discussed at the Paget Rooms include coping with possible future floods and coastal erosion on and around the Severn Estuary.

The event will be hosted by the Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) in partnership with the Vale Council and the Environment Agency.

St Hilary church Handel concert

THIS year is the 250th anniversary of the death of the great composer George Frederick Handel.

To mark the occasion, St Hilary church choir, together with students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, will be performing some of his best-known compositions, on Sunday, June 7, at 7pm.

Handel left his native Hanover and settled in Britain, where he composed most of his best known music for the King, and his successor George II.

The programme reflects Handel's huge and varied output, with music for solo soprano, choir, harp, organ, flute and brass.

Tickets can be obtained from Sorrentos, 67 High Street, Cowbridge; The Parish Office, Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge (01446 772302); or from choir member Christopher Mowat on 01446 771601.

'The Marriage Course' is free and could put you back on the right road!

A new course is about to begin in the Vale aimed at helping at couples who want to make their relationships stronger.

The Marriage Course is being held in Sigingstone and is in conjunction with Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge.

Jan Whitehead, who is running the course with her husband Mark, told The GEM: "Although national statistics show marriage breakdown stands at one in three, if we work at our relationships, we can make them work.

"The course comprises seven weekly sessions of approximately two and a half hours.

"Each evening starts with a meal, and this is followed by a talk, after which each couple has an opportunity to discuss the things they have heard.

"The discussion period involves couples working on their own and is confidential"

Jan added: "The course provides an opportunity to learn how to make marriages stronger.

"In the past, the course has been attended by couples who have been married for two years up to 42 years."

The course, which starts on Monday, June 8, is free, but people can make a donation at the end of the course if they wish.

Jan and Mark Whitehead can be contacted on 01446 776446.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

MP's local survey on M4 link was 'highly selective'

I WARMLY welcome John Smith's announcement that he will publish a full account of his maximum claim for MP's 'Additional Costs Allowance' "as soon as practicable".

Such transparency is to be commended. However, it is not his personal expenses that concern me as much as the MP's Communications Allowance.

Mr Smith's attempts to sway the decision of the Assembly's Deputy First Minister over the route of a possible new airport access road (which is none of his concern) by the conduct of a highly selective 'survey' which excluded any constituents likely to give him an answer he didn't want to hear, was an abuse of the democratic process.

His claim of "overwhelming, 93 per cent support" for a direct link between the M4 and his cherished military academy, as published in The GEM last December, arose from his use of public money to print and distribute 14,000 survey forms within a Barry area judged likely to provide him with the results he wanted – while ignoring the majority of his constituents in areas actually affected by the decision.

According to his office, only 550 forms were returned, and while they have the nerve to tell us five months later that results are still coming in, so far a mere 3.5 per cent of those 14,000 people surveyed have indicated any support whatsoever for a direct link road to the M4 to serve both the Airport and the Defence Academy, as he claimed.

Mr Smith will not, of course, be contesting the next election. We trust that it will be practicable to examine communications allowance invoices before he steps down.

Ruth Rees, Pendoylan

Bad parking is still a major problem

IN reply to the letter of May 21 entitled 'beware jumping to conclusions', I and others, I am sure, regret that the writer suffers from arthritis of the knees and hip

However, in defence of the person who left the note under the windscreen (which I hasten to add was not myself) he or she could not possibly have known of the writer's problem if it was not indicated on the car.

I expect he or she, like myself, is fed up with people taking up two spaces in a car park. I generally use Filco in Cowbridge, which has a small car park and the number of times I have had to withdraw from the car park and find another parking spot because of thoughtless people taking up two spaces, is numerous.

While on the subject of parking in Filco Cowbridge, the management has organised the car park so that cars can now come in and out at the same time by painting a long yellow box down one side of the entrance/exit.

Some people still park there, and also on the yellow box on the side of Filco when the car park is full.

I agree with the writer, however, that some drivers do park too close to the next bay; but please do not 'jump to conclusions' about the person who was unaware of medical problems.

Carole Golden, Aberthin

Llantwit in transition

AS Llantwit Major is a 'Transition Town', now is the time to become more self-sufficient as the oil runs out and we need to conserve our resources.

Come along to see what can be done at local events: The school fete at St Illtyds, Llantwit, on June 6, from 10am – and the Llantwit Victorian Fayre Day on June 20. Find our stall and look out for the Transition Llantwit banner.

The showing of 'Age of Stupid' at Llantonian Hall in the evening of July 23, shows how things cannot continue as they are.

Chris Ellerton (01446 794742)

MORE LETTERS IN NEXT WEEK'S GEM

Llangan Primary School takes trophy in Rotary tournament

SIX primary school teams took part in the Rotary 7-A-side football competition on May 21.

This is now the second year that Cowbridge Rotary Club has sponsored this event.

The final was between Llangan County Primary School and St David's/Colwinston Church in Wales Primary School.

The result was 2-0 to Llangan School.

The Rotary club of Cowbridge is grateful to the staff of St David's/Colwinston Church in Wales Primary School for organising the competition.

The teams competing were: St Nicholas Church in Wales Primary School, Llancarfan Primary School, Llangan Primary School (winners), Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School, St David's Church in Wales Primary School (Colwinston), Peterston-Super-Ely Primary School.

RIGHT: Jonathan Harvey, captain of the winning team with the Rotary Winners' shield.

BELOW: The teams from Llangan and St Davids line up for the final.

Work to start on new Vale health centre

PREPARATORY work for the new Cowbridge Health Centre has begun.

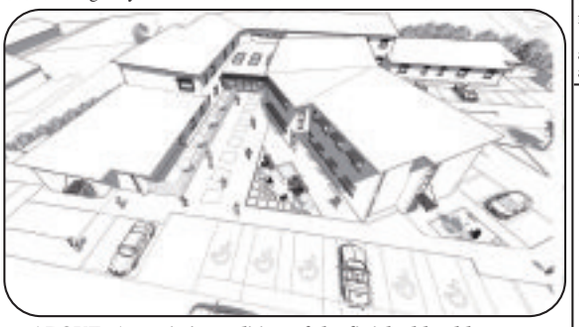
The work includes new road alignment, as well as drainage, street lighting and junction improvements to create a suitable infrastructure for the new health centre, and is planned to take around 22 weeks.

The work will be carried out by the Vale Council's highways maintenance department in conjunction with Brackley Investments.

Once the preparatory work is complete, the construction will begin. The centre will be built next to Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Coun Geoff Cox, Vale Council cabinet member for visible and building services, said: "I am particularly happy that our in-house highway construction team are working in partnership with Brackley Investments on this project."

Coun Anthony Ernest, cabinet member for leisure and tourism, said: "I am pleased that this scheme will enhance the car parking facilities at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, and that there will be minimal disruption to the normal routine of the leisure centre during the construction works."



ABOVE: An artist's rendition of the finished health centre.

Demand soars for council houses

THE number of people waiting for a 'council' house in the Vale has increased by almost 2,000 over the past year.

At March 31 last year, the Vale had 4,658 people on its social housing waiting list but in May, just over 13 months later, the figure has soared to 6,353.

Figures are rising all over the country as people have their homes repossessed and find themselves needing social housing.

There are also increases in the number of people being evicted from private rented accommodation because of financial problems and rising unemployment.

The council has also reported a slight increase in people classed as homeless. Last year there were 155 cases but this year the figure stands at 163 people whom the council have accepted they have a permanent duty to re-house.

People are often placed in bed and breakfast accommodation as they wait for housing to become available.

Community AGM

THE AGM of the St Nicholas (Barry) Community Association will be held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, on Friday, June 12, at 6.30pm.

All interested persons and members of organisations using the hall are welcome. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

For further information or hire of the main hall or the smaller basement room at the St Nicholas Hall, Barry, telephone the booking clerk on 01446 739212.

Welsh councils accused of buying Dutch daffs!

A MAJOR Welsh business has criticised Welsh councils for failing to support it.

The Really Welsh company, which was set up in 2005, grows crops in Llantwit Major and other sites throughout the Vale and further afield.

These include daffodils, daffodil bulbs, leeks and cauliflowers.

In a letter to Llantwit Major Town Council, Richard Arnold said that the firm was established with the aim of bringing back leek and daffodil growing to Wales, and to restore its two iconic, national crops to the country.

He explained that until then, almost all the daffodils sold in Wales as flowers or bulbs came from Cornwall, Lincolnshire or even Holland, with the leeks grown in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

He went on: "It's been an uphill struggle, but in 2009 we've achieved record crops of both lines and we now need to get retailers to stock them."

He reported that they had contacted a number of Welsh county councils and local authorities, but only four had agreed to buy small quantities of daffodils.

He said: "In short, it was a disaster.

"Most either never replied to our letters and phone calls, or said they were happy to go on purchasing from Holland or Cornwall.

"Some said they never plant daffodils – which we found the saddest of all."

Mr Arnold said that in Wales, the company had some of the best land for growing bulbs in Europe.

"We aim to rotate the crops responsibly so we will not see tired land producing tiny bulbs, as you do from other regions."

Mr Arnold urged Llantwit Major Town Council to support a local enterprise and buy bulbs from them.

"Help us to get Welsh daffodils growing again in Wales, and help keep flower production where it should be, in Wales."

He added that the firm donates five per cent of its profits to charities and good causes in Wales.

The town council agreed to buy a 25kg sack of daffodil bulbs for £20 and get a second one free.

The council has never purchased bulbs before – it usually buys flowers – but these will now be planted around the town.

More information about the company is on its website at www.really-welsh.com

Tom shines in the sun

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

TOM DAVID, 18, of Llanharry, chalked-up his 10th winner of the season before a large crowd, when landing the confined race at the sun baked Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen last Saturday on *Classic Chance*, a nine-year-old bay gelding, owned by Justin Bryant and trained by Margaret Ree at Cowbridge.

Classic Chance, who had won the restricted race over the same course at the Tredegar Farmers meeting on May 10, when ridden by Rhys Hughes, won by 30 lengths from *Casey Tiles* and clocked exactly the same time - 6 mins 8 secs - as when winning on that occasion. This was *Classic Chance's* third win over the course and his winning connections said: "He's a bit of a monkey but the blinkers have done the trick".

Former hurdler *Canndar*, owned by a Cardiff Golf Club syndicate, and trained by Aberthin's Abbi Vaughan, had an easy win in the young horse maiden race.

Confidently ridden by Rhys Hughes, who like Tom David is attached to Tim Vaughan's yard, Canndar won by a distance from *Cutlass Silver,* ridden by Tom David, after drawing well clear three fences from the finish.

Bargoed's John Lewis Llewellyn, took the members' race on Jason Parfitt's *Find It Out* and in doing so reached his half century. Llewellyn, 38, has won 35 races under rules and a further 15 between-the-flags. In the mixed open race, *Makena,* a 25-1 chance, partnered by Alan Johns, won by two and a half lengths from the fancied *Red Man* ridden by John Norman.

Robert Reddaway's *Fairly Glorious,* from the Eggesford Hunt in Devon, landed a huge gamble in the confined race after being backed from 7-1 to 2-1 favourite. Well ridden by Sam Allwood, the eight-year-old bay gelding won by a length from the fast finishing *Merthyrmawr.*

Meanwhile, many years ago, as a young lad, I was walking down Wharton Street in Cardiff with my father, when who should be walking towards us was the legendary boxer Jimmy Wilde. Jimmy, who was dubbed 'The ghost with a hammer in his hand' and 'The Tylorstown Terror', shook my hand after my father had introduced me to him.

Last week, I not only got to shake the hand of another Welsh boxing legend but I also got to interview him. I am talking about the undefeated world boxing champion, Joe Calzaghe.

Joe was in Mill Lane, Cardiff's Cafe Quarter as a guest of his personal friend Giovanni Malacrino, where he had the honour of having a new blend of coffee named after him.

Joe, who was accompanied by his partner Jo-Emma Larvin, a model and actress, said: "Giovanni is determined to make this part of Cardiff world famous as a cafe quarter and rid it of its binge drinking reputation."

He told me that he does a lot of charity work now, but still manages a few days a week in the gym. Mr Malacrino said he wants to attract couples and families to the cafe quarter, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

He added: "Mill Lane has gone through three years of redevelopment, but I am confident that we have a cafe quarter as good as anywhere in the UK, and perhaps one day it will be known all over the world."

MIXED WEEK FOR MURCH BOWLERS

THE ladies of the Murch Bowling Club continued their good form, winning the only game in the week against Fairwater in a two-rink Evening League game.

Both rinks registered wins, the one skipped by Belinda Price by 22-7, while skip Gloria Perry's rink were 17-13 to the good.

The double rinks game against Windsor Penarth was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather. With a shortage of matches, the ladies, as an alternative, arranged a trip to Abergavenny and Usk for an enjoyable day out.

The Murch men also won one game, but unfortunately, lost three. The winning game was against Pontycymmer in a Welsh Club Championship game, by an overall score of 72-68.

Three Murch rinks recorded wins. Skip Roger Mauchline 23-14, skip Colin Garland 18-14 and skip John Evans 20-18. Skip Harry Guppy's quarter went down 11-22.

The 'A' team travelled to Barry for a South Vale 'A' Team Cup match against Barry Romilly 'A' and were heavily defeated 103-55. Captain Terry Mayor managed to skip his rink to a 16-13 win, but defeats by 14-25, 19-27 and 6-38 in the rinks skipped by Bernard Toozer, Frank Maunder and Graham Russell respectively, saw the Murch team soundly defeated.

In a mid-week Munro Cup game Murch entertained fellow villagers, Dinas Powys Bowls Club, where in a cordial atmosphere the visitors triumphed by 74-61. The rinks skipped by Harry Guppy and Roger Mauchline were narrowly defeated by one and two shots respectively.

Colin Garland's rink succumbed 12-23, while skip John Evans, ably supported by Ray Golding, Derek Davies and Ian Robinson won on the last end by two shots and one overall to record a solitary rink victory.

A friendly three-rink game against Whitchurch resulted in a 12-shot win for the Cardiff side. Skip Pay Haye's rink were sole winners 16-10, Bob Marsh's four lost 7-22, while Alan Savage's four went down 12-15.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

New Archdeacon

A REMINDER that the licensing service for the Venerable Peggy Jackson will be at Saint Cadoc's, Llancarfan, on Monday June 1. The service will commence at 7.30pm and will be followed by a reception at the village hall

Irish night

THERE are still tickets available for the Irish night at the village hall in Llancarfan on Saturday, May 30, starting at 7.30pm

There will be a traditional Irish supper and music. Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Joann Scott-Quelch (01446 781366), Kay Brain (01446 781080) or any member of the Llancarfan Book Club. All proceeds will go towards the wall paintings appeal.

Llancarfan society

VARIOUS events are scheduled by the society over the next months, the first of which is a treasure hunt (on foot) in Llancarfan. Entry forms will be available at the village hall from 6.15pm on Tuesday June 2, with the event starting at 6.30pm.

Entry is £1 (children under 11 admitted free). All entries must be back at the hall by 8.30pm and prizes will be given to the first and second highest scoring persons or family. Winners will be announced on June 5.

Petanque

THE Ruth Watts Memorial competition will take place at the Village Petanque Piste on Sunday June 28 starting at 1.30pm. Entry is £1 per head, with teams of 3.

No safari for depleted Lions

THROUGHOUT the years, if you were to ask any of the top New Zealanders who were the toughest opponents they had faced, they would probably answer South Africa, especially in their own backyard.

You can therefore appreciate the huge task that awaits Ian McGeechan's 2009 Lions, who hope to emulate the successful 1997 tourists.

As head coach in 1997, McGeechan is fully aware of what it takes to beat the Boks, but he no longer has Jim Telfer to lean on.

Also, while the '97 Lions suffered their share of injuries on tour, losing the likes of Scott Quinell, Rob Howley and Laurence Dallaglio among others, this current crop of Lions have been hit hard before they leave these shores.

Picking a big physical pack was always going to be a priority, but the loss of Jerry Flannery looks particularly unfortunate with the South Africans sure to concentrate on disrupting the scrum.

At prop, the Lions boast the world player of the year in Welshman Gethin Jenkins, and have strength in depth in terms of experience with Adam Jones, Andrew Sheridan, Phil Vickery and Euan Murray.

Second row is also pretty solid with skipper O'Connell nailing one spot, leaving O'Callaghan, Shaw and Wyn-Jones to fight for the other, with the uncompromising Shaw my bet to give a steely edge to try and tie in Matfield.

In my view, the best the Lions front five can hope for is parity, so I expect the South African back row to gain an edge which will be crucial to the outcome of the Tests.

On Six Nations form, David Wallace looks a certain starter despite the presence of Martin Williams, fellow Irishman Jamie Heaslip at No 8 and either Worsley or Croft at six, but with Schalke Burger and any other two from five, I fear the Boks will dominate this area to pressure the Lions into mistakes.

At half-back the Lions may regret not taking Dwayne Peel. Phillips is strong and Blair and Ellis have the corgi-like styles of conventional scrum-halves, but Peel has a mixture of both, with a superb pass even under pressure and the ability to lift the tempo of a game.

I am relieved to see the selectors have gone for Hook, as three outside-halves are needed, with O'Gara's suspect defensive frailties sure to be noted by the South African coaches.

The most glaring omission in my mind is Gordon D'Arcy at inside centre. Good centre play requires a partnership and D'Arcy and O'Driscoll is one of the best in international rugby.

I hope the Lions don't try to 'bish bosh' down the centre, as they will play into South Africa's hands if they do. The Lions desperately need Shane Williams firing on all cylinders, with Bowe and Byrne to make an all-Ospreys back three for the Test if they can stay injury free.

They will have to be fit and on top form to cope with Habana and co.

While the Lions will be looking at six warm-up games, the Boks will be using these games as a war of attrition, like the old Zulu chief using his warriors to find the strength and weaknesses of the enemy.

Another advantage the home side may have is the referee, or more importantly, the referees' interpretations.

Yes, they are neutrals and honest men, but Bryan Lawrence (in charge of the first Test in Durban) is a New Zealander used to southern hemisphere rugby, as is Australia's Stuart Dickinson who will referee the third Test in Jo'Burg.

The second Test in Pretorius will be whistled by Christophe Berdos, and usually anything goes with a French ref in the middle.

Head over heart says a 3-0 Bokwash by the South Africans, who have been waiting 12 years to exact revenge.

DAVID GRIFFITHS
(Llantwit Major rugby correspondent)

Lili Marlene, a song that really has a story to tell

ARMED Forces Day in Bridgend county borough will be marked by a unique event – the premiere of a new production tracing the history of the famous wartime song 'Lili Marlene'.

The show opens in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, but it will also be performed free of charge in Bridgend Recreation Centre after the Veterans' Parade on Armed Forces Day (June 27).

The theatre group, Teflonstage AG, hopes that the Porthcawl production will raise money for local veterans.

The show, entitled *Lili*, tells the story of 'Lili Marlene' – a song banned by Adolf Hiter's henchman, Josef Goebbels, which went on to become a worldwide hit.

The show will be staged on two nights (June 19-20). Anthony Childs-Cutler, co-producer of *Lili*, told The GEM: "The response has been very encouraging, with support from right across the borough.

"One sponsor summed up support for this show by saying, 'I'm more than happy to do something for veterans after what they've done for me.'

"Oscar Fovarge has written a thought-provoking but also highly entertaining piece, and all involved are local."

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said: "It will always be very important to remember all those from so many parts of the world who fought in British Forces during the Second World War and other conflicts. I am honoured to give my full support to this event"

Major Wayne Morgan MBE, the chairman of the Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion and the Bridgend County Borough Veterans Association said: "The production of *Lili* during Armed Forces Week gives Bridgend a unique opportunity to show the nation its positive support and huge regard for its veteran community".

Teflonstage's production tells the remarkable story of 'Lili Marlene', a song instantly disliked by Josef Goebbels and other senior Nazis when it was first released in Germany just before the outbreak of World War II.

Played in error three years later by German Forces Radio Belgrade, the banned song became such an instant hit with soldiers in the field that Field Marshal Rommel demanded it be played before sign-off every night.

The singer, Lale Andersen, went from little-known cabaret singer to overnight sensation.

Author Oscar Fovarges says: "The song portrayed everything that the Nazis disliked and everything the common soldier and his loved ones craved. The story of 'Lili Marlene' demonstrates that even the most callous leaders could not quell the common humanity of their citizens.

"Soldiers, their sweethearts and mothers wrote in their millions to Lale Andersen to express their gratitude. Many of the letters were addressed quite simply to 'Lili Marlene', c/o Radio Belgrade".

British frontline soldiers in North Africa heard the haunting tune and even crept up on enemy positions to hear it all the better. In the ebb and flow of the desert campaign captured copies of the recording became valuable items.

When members of the Eighth Army sang the song – in German! – while on leave in the UK, members of the public objected, only to be told by the soldiers that this was their song, they'd earned it the hard way, and they'd sing any song in any language they pleased.

The Dance Music Policy Committee was then called upon to to decide whether the British government would ban the song or co-opt it. There were by this time so many soldiers' versions current that banning it would have been a lost cause.

Meanwhile back in Germany, the original singer Lale Andersen incurred Goebbels' wrath by refusing to sing the song with different lyrics for propaganda purposes.

She also refused to entertain in the Warsaw Ghetto and refused to cut links with her Jewish friends abroad. Goebbels banned her public performances and placed her under house arrest.

Carmen-Litta Andersen, Lale Andersen's daughter and best-selling biographer of her mother, has sent messages of support from Canada to the veterans of the Bridgend area and to the cast of the show.

She said: "My mother always believed that British radio broadcasts saved my mother's life. They claimed that my mother had been sent to a camp or committed suicide. Goebbels was then obliged to keep her alive."

Lili also recounts the stories of other famous singers of the time who sang English versions of 'Lili Marlene' as well as other hits of the period. Stage portraits include Vera Lynn, Marlene Dietrich, Anne Shelton and Zarah Leander.

However, as Anthony Childs-Cutler states: "One of these divas was a spy, and possibly a double agent. But we don't want to ruin the suspense. If anyone wants to know who it is they should come and see the show."

Tickets (£9.50 (concessions £2) are available from the Grand Pavilion box office (01656 815995 or via www.grandpavilion.co.uk.

On June 27, The Veterans' Parade will start at Bridgend Recreation Centre at 10.30am, and the march will reach the Cenotaph in time for 11am.

It will return to Bridgend Recreation Centre, where a buffet is to be provided at 12.30pm, followed by a performance of the show at 12.45pm.

Bryn inspires Natalya in her bid to bring Cardiff Singer of the World title home to Wales

by DON JOHN

WHEN soloists from 25 nations take to the stage in the prestigious Cardiff Singer of the World competition, which starts on June 6, flying the flag for Wales will be Natalya Romaniw – following in the footsteps of her illustrious compatriot Bryn Terfel, in more ways than one.

For the young Swansea student will face the daunting challenge straight from studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as did operatic superstar Bryn 20 years ago.

Though he narrowly missed out on the overall crown in an epic vocal tussle with Russian baritone rival, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the judges awarded him the coveted Lieder Prize (now renamed the Song Prize).

The Welsh star took time out during rehearsals at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden to recall the occasion and give Natalya some useful tips when facing the judges.

He told her: "Remember that your performance starts the moment you walk on to that stage, so have a big smile on your face – and, above all, keep hydrated.

"You will be doing so many rehearsals, interviews, and then the performances. Just keep on drinking water; keep it in your bag and drink it whenever you can.

"I had never won anything at college," Bryn recalled. "But then I won the Gold Medal there! Cardiff Singer of the World was the first time I had sung with an orchestra."

Natalya stakes her claim for the title of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World at St David's Hall on Wednesday, June 10. The final is at the same venue on Sunday, June 14.

She is also one of those bidding for the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Song Prize at the New Theatre, with that final taking place at St David's Hall on Saturday, June 13.

ABOVE: Natalya with Bryn Terfel.

After her pep talk with Bryn, a clearly-inspired Natalya said: "It is really busy now. I have a table of how many days are left! I have my final recital at the Guildhall (*today, May 28*) which is part of my degree, and then I finish.

"In the recital, I am incorporating songs from the competition, so it will be kind of like a mock run." She was accompanied at the meeting by another competitor, Ji-Min from Seoul, South Korea, who explained that he did not want to miss the chance to meet one of his heroes.

"It is one of my dreams to sing in BBC Cardiff Singer of the World. I bought a DVD of the competition and I have listened to it hundreds of times. I listen to it every day," he added.

The 25 singers taking part were selected from more than 600 aspirants who were auditioned worldwide.

The judging panel, headed by Welsh National Opera's Director, John Fisher, will this year include the legendary Dame Gwyneth Jones, Kurt Moll, Giacomo Aragall, Ann Murray, and the conductor Richard Bonynge.

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World takes place from June 6 -14. Tickets from New Theatre, Cardiff: 029 2087 8889, St David's Hall, Cardiff 029 2087 8444, or online at www.stdavidshall.co.uk

Win a 'shark sleepover' with Hovis Best of Both and Glamorgan GEM!

THIS summer, Hovis Best of Both is offering one lucky family the chance to win the once in a life time opportunity to sleep with the sharks!

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Just like the fantastic prize, Hovis Best of Both is great for all the family, especially mums who are looking for clever ways to ensure their kids have a healthier diet.

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To win this incredible prize, simply answer the following question: Hovis Best of Both is Rich in…. which of the following?

A: Sultanas; B: Calcium; C: Chocolate.

Send your answers on a postcard, marked Hovis Competition, together with your full address and telephone number to: The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

(Closing Date is Friday, June 5).

No correspondence will be entered into, and judge's decision is final. Good luck!

ABOVE: You could be sleeping with the sharks if you win this great competition!

Glowing praise and AA rosette for Vale Resort

THE Vale Resort at Hensol has been awarded a top AA score and new AA rosette for its Vale Grill restaurant.

The Resort has achieved an 82 per cent AA merit rating out of a maximum 85 per cent within the four star rating band. Its contemporary restaurant, the Vale Grill, achieves its first AA rosette under the supervision of head chef James Bumpass, who has set out to source only Welsh ingredients in his menus.

The resort's general manager, Ben Danielsen joined the Leeke family owned resort just over a year ago from the award-winning Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa in Newbury and has built an experienced senior management team to set high standards throughout the resort.

He said the Vale had taken very significant steps forward in the past year: "We have moved from a 74 per cent rating up to 82 per cent, which is significant as the maximum merit score for four star hotels is 85 per cent – so we are at the very top end of this market.

"The first hallmark of quality will always be day in day out consistency and that is exactly what we seek to provide at the Vale and is ratified by these top ratings.

"It is an acknowledgement from the leading independent quality assessor that we are doing great things at the Vale and gives a boost at a time when the news pages are filled with stories about a distressed economy and the impacts of the recession.

Ben Danielsen at the new AA Rosette restaurant, the Vale Grill.

"Our aim is to provide a personal and excellent service and connect on an emotional level with our guests. Too often large hotels do not provide that – our aim is for guests to have an experience that is custom made for them as individuals. With the scope and range of facilities here – we can do that well.

"The Vale's new Grill restaurant was going from strength to strength," he commented.

"We are particularly delighted with the awarding of an AA rosette for the Vale Grill, thanks to the quality and creativity being infused into our food offer here under the guidance of head chef James Bumpass.

"In the last year, we have focused on using locally sourced Welsh products and to keep our menus, and food service, simple, fresh, mouthwatering and only using high quality ingredients.

"We want to be part of the growing food culture in Wales and by supporting Welsh producers can help promote the very best that our nation has to offer.

"James and his team have worked hard to secure consistency in the kitchen and credit must also go to the highly professional service team in the Grill, who ensure guests enjoy good food and wine in a contemporary and comfortable setting.

"Hospitality is all down to team work. Without the fantastic efforts from the team in front of house and back house, from reservation to administration, from housekeeping to kitchen porters, this would not have happened.

"The decision was made early last year to create an individual experience for the guests and together the team has delivered this and we are all delighted."

Out and About with The GEM

Midsummer party - by order of St John!

THE Order of St John in the Vale present their annual concert in the marquee at Dyffryn Gardens on Thursday, June 11.

By popular request there will be a return visit of the South Wales Police Band, which will perform the spectacular ceremony of *Beating Retreat* at sunset.

Spokesman Basil Watkins said: "There will be the usual succulent finger buffet, licensed bar and raffle. Ticket price is £15 and both individuals and parties can be catered for. Doors open at 6.30pm.

"The proceeds will be used to support the work of the St John Ambulance. There are 133 members of the Brigade in the Vale, from the age of six to 66 and in their black and white uniforms they can be seen at local sporting and agricultural events, as well as manning the First Aid Centre and Safety Boat at Barry Island during the summer months.

"Last year, they attended 269 events and treated more than 200 casualties. Some are part of the team on duty at the Millennium Stadium.

"To support their worthy cause and to enjoy yourselves, why not join us for what promises to be a memorable occasion."

Tickets available on 01446 781329.

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SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

GIVEN Ben Stiller's predilection for 'grown-up' comedy in the likes of *Tropic Thunder*, *Starsky and Hutch* and *Dodgeball*, his recent output has seen move into more child-friendly waters in the likes of animated film *Madagascar* and its sequel, and *Night At The Museum*, the follow-up of which, subtitled Battle of the Smithsonian, is his latest.

Stiller reprises his role as night museum guard Larry, who is forced to infiltrate the titular Washington museum to rescue the Natural History museum displays – who have been moved as part of an overhaul of their present home.

Forced to call upon the help of the displays that came to life in the last film, along with many new ones, Larry faces a race against time when one of the Smithsonian displays – the evil Egyptian prince Kahmunrah (Hank Azaria) – sets his sights on the tableau that brings the exhibits to life...

As far as sequels go, the decision to make one for *Night At The Museum* seemed to be based on financial, rather than creative, reasons. After all, the original was a serviceable, undemanding film that offered spectacle and laughs for the younger viewer, but didn't really satisfy the older cinemagoer.

Given that this sequel appeared to be offering more of the same, it wasn't the most highly anticipated of releases, yet remarkably, *Battle of the Smithsonian* is a marked improvement on its predecessor and makes for an all round entertaining watch.

What makes it superior to the first film is the decision to ramp up the comedic aspect of the film and not pander to its younger audience. Certainly there are touches that pay mind to them, the inclusion of the Jonas brothers as singing cherubs for example, but the onus is on getting humour from the actors first and foremost.

Reading like a who's-who of comic actors, the cast certainly don't lack experience in comedic roles and deliver performances ranging from the sublime to the good. Ben Stiller may have to play more of a straight man than usual here, helping to set up the laughs rather than executing them, but he still offers a decent performance.

The script may not give him much to go on, but his chemistry with the rest of the cast means he makes a satisfactory lead, sparking with the likes of Owen Wilson, Steve Coogan and Robin Williams.

The best two performances come from newcomers to the *Museum*, in Amy Adams and Hank Azaria. The latter, whose vocal work on *The Simpsons* has been consistently top drawer, is to my mind a hugely underrated comedic performer, and he shows here just how good he is, tucking into the role of Kahmunrah with zealous relish.

Playing for laughs rather than any real villainy, he takes great delight in playing the bad guy as a pantomime villain, his lisping voice and demand to be taken seriously adding to the comedy.

As Amelia Earhart, Amy Adams is the equal of Azaria's performance, delivering a turn that is full of verve and spark, while never overplaying it. The skilled actress fills her performance with sassy dialogue and 'have-a-go' spirit that adds life to the film.

Sparking nicely with Stiller, it is her lively performance, along with Azaria's, that really highlights the difference between this film and the last one; the same spectacle, but allied with genuinely funny performances and touches.

The script, by Robert Ben Garant and Thomas Lennon, also addresses that issue, swapping the heist-like story in the first film for a more straightforward rescue mission – albeit with a difference - that is much more satisfying.

By concentrating on the characters that worked in the original, and casting those that didn't to the background (farewell Attila the Hun), they work up something that increases the enjoyment and gets rid of the deadwood.

The third act moralising may feel a touch tacked on, but then given the target audience, it is merely a necessary evil rather than there for the sake of it.

Having directed the interminable likes of *Cheaper By The Dozen*, *Just Married* and *The Pink Panther*, Shawn Levy's directorial abilities come under a high level of scrutiny, and he offers up little here that will see his stock rise upwards. While he doesn't disgrace himself to the level of those previously mentioned films, there is little in his direction that really stands out.

The film is well shot and the few moments of action are assembled with almost cookie cutter precision, yet Levy seems happy enough to rely on the abilities of his cast rather than attempt to imbue the film with any personality, the result being a decently directed film rather than a great one; however, the strong cast see it through, delivering a satisfying and pleasurable piece of work.

VERDICT – An entertaining, if ultimately slight, work, *Night At The Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* not only hits its target audience square on, but also offers up enough for those not in the age range with comic gusto. A good cast, with Amy Adams and Hank Azaria as stand-outs, help make a film that is worth a watch. *Enjoyable.*

D-Day remembrance

THE Royal British Legion (Barry Branch) mark the 65th anniversary of D-Day, by a service and wreath-laying at the Cenotaph, Barry Memorial Hall, on Saturday, June 6, at 11am.

Any organisation or individual who requires a wreath to lay at the service may telephone the Poppy Appeal organiser on 01446 710901. The public are welcome to attend the service.

School fete

MAES DYFAN SCHOOL, Gibbonsdown Road, Barry, will be holding a summer fete on Friday, June 5, starting at 12.30pm, to launch its new play area.

Various stalls including refreshments will be hosted by pupils, staff and parents. 29p entry. All proceeds to school funds.

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The Vale enjoys the end-of-season Point-to-Point at the Bonvilston Steeplechases

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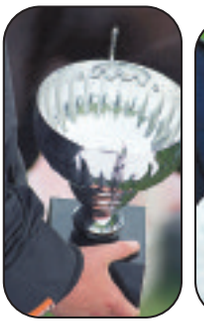

LOCAL riders Nick Williams and James Tudor both rode winners at the Countryside Alliance Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Bonvilston on Bank Holiday Monday.

However, it was Pembrokeshire's Kyle Yates, 20, who stole the day's riding honours with a first-ever double with *Manormouse* (restricted) and *Holmwood Legend* (intermediate).

Tudor, riding *Musique En Tete,* trained by his cousin Jonathan Tudor and owned by The WhiteBirdPryor Group (namely Jeffrey Bird, Colin White and Victoria Prior) jumped the last two lengths ahead of Iron Bay to take the open maiden race and Williams, standing in for the injured John Mathias, won the men's open on the odds-on favourite *Misamon,* who had five lengths to spare over *Esters Boy* at the finish.

Musique En Tete, a nine-year-old chestnut gelding, had been runner-up in his last three starts but ironically, with the season nearly over, Jonathan's horses are just starting to find their form!

The French-bred *Misamon*, who was winning for the third time this season, is owned by The Supreme Racing Club, headed by west Wales National Hunt trainer Dai Rees, and trained by Kristal Harris.

ManorMouse is owned by Adrian Simpson, who thinks a lot of this six-year-old bay gelding by *Luso*. Prominent throughout, *ManorMouse* drew clear three fences from home to win by five lengths from *Treasured Coin*.

Handler Beverley Thomas says *ManorMouse* could be her last winner as a trainer as she will not be involved in the training of point-to-pointers next season.

Mrs Janet Underwood's *Holmwood Legend*, a 1,600 guineas buy at Ascot three years ago, had his task made easier when the odds-on favourite *Micks Prospect* fell at the first fence.

A real old-fashioned type of steeplechaser, this eight-year-old son of *Midnight Legend* finished a distance ahead of the only other finisher – in a field of six – *Danny's Last*. Trained by Mrs Underwood's son David, *Holmwood Legend* had finished second in his previous two starts.

Ruth Birt Llewellin, riding her father's 14-year old *Usk Valley* – the oldest horse in the six runner field – came late on the scene to win the club members' novice riders' race by three lengths from the pacemaking *Verchoyles Lad* with the favourite *Up The Boreen* a further one-and-a-half lengths back in third spot.

Bought at Ascot four years ago for 3,500 guineas, *Usk Valley* gave his 23-year-old rider her third success to date.

In the ladies' open race, the Sally Thomas owned and trained Cotswold Vale Farmers invader *Noadibou*, a former inmate of Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard, opened up a 4-6 odds-on favourite but drifted to 7-4 to share favouritism with *Chandlers Cross*.

The latter, partnered by Lucy Pearce Rowsell, actually led at the last but the giant *Noadibou* – he's 17.1hh – ran on strongly to win by an official length with *Colorado Storm*, the early leader, a further two lengths back in third place.

BRIAN LEE

Vale Karate see success on the European stage

BUSY weekends are the norm for Vale Karate and Wales was one of 44 nations who participated in European Karate's biggest recently.

The Dom Sportiva in Zagreb, Croatia, was the venue for the 44th Senior European Karate championships.

Vale Karate Kumite coach Gareth Reynolds was in the squad, competing in both the Mens - 67Kg category and as a member of the Welsh Men's team.

Unfortunately, Gareth could not progress in the individual event, beaten by Belgium's number one Salah Mesnaoui, by a 1-0 score.

Gareth redeemed himself in the team event, winning his bout in the Wales vs Switzerland first round match by a score of 4-0. However, Wales could not progress, as Switzerland won three bouts to Wales' two.

Closer to home on Sunday, Vale Karate sent competitors to two competitions 130 miles apart, with the Vale's younger competitors dominating both events.

At the AMA Southern Championships in Reading, nine-year-old Chloe Fry, newly crowned as the Vale of Glamorgan's Junior Female 'Sports Personality of The Year' ,underlined the reasons she earned that award by winning her fifth and sixth individual titles of 2009, beating team-mate Kloe Christoforato in the finals of each of the under-10 Kata and Kumite events.

Kloe, a year younger at just eight, has reached the podium no fewer than 12 times already this year, and is improving rapidly.

Luke Davies, still only 14, and Wales' youngest full international, has been lucky enough to be around just when the World and European karate Federations sanctioned international categories for 14 and 15 year olds at this January's Junior European Championships and took his fifth gold medal of the year, winning the Under 16 Kumite event.

Nick Sherrin has matured hugely this year and has already won three Under 12 Kumite titles.

He looked to be on his way to another in Reading.

A close final saw no score, even after the extension. In these circumstances the judges give a decision based on superiority, and although the Vale Karate supporters believed Nick had the upper hand, the judges thought otherwise and Nick was left with the silver medal.

ABOVE: Kloe and Chloe with their trophies.

Bradley Christoforato, although among the best in Britain in the under-12 Kata category, has not yet managed a title this year, as every event he enters features Britain's best youngsters.

He was again unlucky enough to come up against England's top 11-year-old Kieran Nunkoo in the semi-final, with Bradley again earning a bronze medal.

Rob Green won Vale Karate's final medal at the championships.

Rob runs the St Pat's group of clubs within Vale Karate. Equally adept in both competitive aspects of traditional Karate, Kata and Kumite, Rob was beaten by one of England's top young champions Alex Gardner, then won through the repechage rounds to take bronze.

Meanwhile, Carl Peckham who runs Vale Karate's Koryu Karate Club took a few students to the Stafford Open.

Brooklyn Peckham, still only nine-years-old, is among Vale Karate's brightest young prospects and found little opposition on his way to the Kata and Kumite double.

Ryan Page, Lucille Ibisi, Suniah Naeem and Sicelo Biyela also won medals.

ROB COPELAND

Dinas battle to earn point after a poor start

WELSH LEAGUE, DIVISION ONE
DINAS POWYS 0
CAMBRIAN & CLYDACH 0

AN unfortunate incident in the first minute of this game resulted in Cyron Williams being show a yellow card when attempting to play a high ball. He caught Cambrian striker Darren Jones on the face with a boot and he had to be replaced by Shaun Fackrell.

Neither side took control early in the difficult windy conditions, although Dinas' 'keeper Alex Skinner did have to block a shot from Jason Bertorelli in the fifth minute.

Disaster then struck the already depleted Dinas squad when Mark Greedy pulled up with a groin strain and manager Danny Kinsey replaced him.

He soon made his presence felt however, heading down a cross into the path of Ashton Turner, who should have scored but volleyed just wide.

Cambrian's passing was crisper and they were keeping the ball better without really troubling the Dinas defence who were all in fine form, especially Chris Ashley and Cyron Williams.

Dinas were then dealt a second blow when Nathan Hosgood had to leave the field with a slight hamstring pull on 35 minutes and he was replaced by reserve team manager Dave O'Gorman!

Rhodri Foote dispossessed Bertorelli and raced down the left wing, but was hacked down from behind by Bertorelli who, surprisingly, was not booked but given a warning by the referee.

Cambrian had their chances and with five minutes of the half remaining, when Dinas lost possession after a corner, James Mahoney raced to the other end but his powerful shot cleared the cross-bar.

Despite their weakened team, Dinas started the second half well, Keyon Refell beating several players with a fine run and cross down the left, but the Cambrian defence managed to clear the danger.

As the half wore on Dinas came more under pressure and Rhodri Foote was adjudged to have tripped Scot Seldon in the box.

Dane Williams took the spot kick but, although diving the wrong way, Skinner managed to save with his legs and the ball cleared the cross-bar.

Cambrian then had a succession of corners but the Dinas defence stood firm.

The Villagers luck was also in when William hit a powerful shot which cannoned off a post to safety and Skinner had to make a good save from the same player a minute later.

The visitors frustration began to show and Huw Bowtell was dismissed for violent conduct in the final minute of the game.

So, a good battling point against the odds for Dinas. **PK**

Inspirational teenager gives pupils a lesson in courage

PUPILS at Rhws primary school were recently given an inspirational talk by a teenager whose illness tragically restricted him to playing rugby for just one season.

Alex Evans (15), who has the degenerative condition Ataxia Telangiectasia, shared his love of rugby with year-5 pupils at Rhws after his visit was arranged by teacher Kelly Toshack and Vale Council's rugby development officer Matt Silva.

Alex told how he had played for Beddau RFC under-8s on the wing, just like his hero Shane Williams. He spoke proudly about how he had scored a try on tour in Minehead at the end of his one and only season, before his condition prevented him from taking to the field.

Alex lives with his family in Llantwit Fardre and attends the Ysgol Erw'r Delyn special needs school in Penarth. He first became interested in rugby thanks to his older brothers Matthew and Joshua, and now supports the pair every weekend when they play for Beddau's first and youth teams respectively.

Matt Silva, who is head coach at the club, said: "The way that Alex gets on with his life, in spite of his condition, is an absolute inspiration. He is so passionate about rugby and has given me grief once or twice on the touchline when the team aren't playing too well!"

Alex's presentation to the Rhws pupils climaxed with photos from his proudest day when he achieved his dream of leading out Wales against Canada at the Millennium Stadium in November last year.

Wearing the jersey he was given when Wales mascot last year, rugby fan Alex Evans is pictured with Rhws primary school teacher Kelly Toshack and the Vale Council's rugby development officer Matt Silva.

Alex with the year-5 pupils that he gave a presentation to at Rhws primary school.

Pupils learn to stay secure with Go Safe Gary's advice

CHILDREN at Rhws primary School have been learning about road safety and looking after the environment with a special visit from the Gregory Brothers.

This travelling show performed to the classes and involved pupils of all ages in a variety of songs, dances and rhymes, while teaching the important messages of staying safe and looking after our environment.

The children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed a splendid show and will be singing songs like 'Go Safe Gary' and 'Reuse, Reduce, Recycle' for many months to come!

KB

Year-1 cross a 'road' with Go Safe Gary.

Year-2 children dance to songs.

Cadoxton pipped in final game

CADOXTON FC played their last game of the season at Bryn-y-don with their visitors being Lisvane/Llanishen FC.

Both sides had nothing to win or lose but their pride as they are both mid division in the SWFA Division 2 league.

In the last couple of minutes of the game a streaker ran across the pitch and the referee, Mr Graham Evans, took swift action by showing the person a red card. The individual subsequently disappeared out of the far side of the park.

The final score was 2-1 to Lisvane.

In the Vale of Glamorgan League, Cadoxton finished the season losing 2-1 to Phoenix Construction.

To round off the season Cadoxton FC is to hold its annual Cup Final day function with comedian Jeff Alvey at 1pm,FA Cup final on the big screen and a meal at Caddy Cons on May 30. A football quiz will start the day off at 11am, tickets are available at £5

After languishing in the bottom half of the South Wales FA Division. 2 for some years now, the committee is asking for root and branch changes next year with a fundamental review of the managers and players at this level.

Anyone who would like to manage and bring players to this level of football can contact the chairman, Tony Pugh.

Although the players have enjoyed the season, little was achieved with the exception of manager Richy Rogers getting the Vale of Glamorgan side through to the final of the Dockers Cup at Jenner Park.

TP

LATEST NEWS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AT THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Free rugby league tickets for pupils

Tom, Matthew, Shaun and Sean recently returned from their first Celtic Crusaders game.

THE Celtic Crusaders rugby league team have generously agreed to support Barry Comprehensive School's programme to raise the level of effort and achievement among key stage three pupils.

An important part of the programme is to reward pupils for their achievements.

Every half-term, the Celtic Crusaders will donate six family tickets to a home game, allowing highly achieving pupils to celebrate their success with their families.

Matt Pritchard, the community development manager for Celtic Crusaders, commented that the club is very pleased to be supporting the initiative.

This half-term's ticket recipients were, Tom Perry, Matthew Williams, Shaun Ledbetter, Sean Giddings, Chad Travis and Zak Brown.

The boys were very impressed with their first experience of rugby league and had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Everyone at the school would like to thank the Celtic Crusaders for their support and we look forward to introducing more pupils to rugby league in the future.

AC

PARIS IN THE SPRING – PUPILS SAVOUR SIGHTS!

IN April, a group of Barry Comprehensive School students from years 8, 10 and 13 visited Paris with their teachers Miss Evans, Miss Flage and Mr Williams.

Each morning began with a brief lesson and the rest of the day was spent doing different activities.

Visits included an evening ascent of the Eiffel Tower, a boat trip on the river Seine, visits to Montmartre, Les Invalides, EuroDisney and a chocolate factory.

One evening, the group visited a Crêperie where the year-13 students were given the chance to make crêpes!

The pupils were a credit to the school and their behaviour was so good that the coach driver telephoned the school to say that they were one of the best groups he had ever had!

ABOVE: The pupils pictured at Les Invalides.

RIGHT: Daniel, Liam and Michael at EuroDisney.

School's new funds to support education visits

OAK FIELD School recently received a cheque for £500 from Barclays Bank.

The fundraising that has been taking place at the school was 'match-funded' by Barclays Bank.

Newly-appointed headteacher Julie Mahoney said: "It will impact positively on all the children.

"We are using the money to take the children on a range of educational visits. We are very grateful for all the support."

Staff and pupils at Oak Field are now busily preparing for their summer production of *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

ABOVE: Two pupils pose with the cheque.

It's a karate extravaganza

A KARATE Extravaganza course by top Welsh Karateka is due to take place at Penarth Leisure Centre, on Saturday, June 6, from 12pm-3pm.

Top names in Welsh Karate, past Welsh, British and European Champions, former national coaches and squad manager for Wales will be taking part, and the course is open to all associations and individuals of any grade.

This event is an opportunity not to be missed; with techniques of different styles of karate: Shotokan, Wado and Kyokushinkai to be taught.

In attendance will be two 7th Dan, three 6th Dan, a 5th Dan, a 4th Dan, a 3rd Dan and a 2nd Dan

Price of the course £7. Spectators £1.

Spectators entry fee and profits from the photo session with all instructors will be donated to Ty-Hafan.

For more information, contact Lee Costa 07974972479 or visit website: www.karate-jutsu.org.

Vale AM praises 'outdoor learning'

HOLTON Road Primary School is a 'pioneering school' in the pilot and roll-out of the foundation phase for early years education in Wales, said Jane Hutt, Vale Assembly Member and education minister during a recent visit.

On a conducted tour of the school, led by Mr Andrew Gilbert, the headteacher, Jane Hutt spent time enjoying the 'outdoor learning' environment, even on a rainy day.

She also admired the pupils' enthusiasm for learning in every year group of the school, particularly reading, with regular visits to Barry Library in Kings Square to extend their choice of books.

Ms Hutt said: "Holton Primary School gives their pupils an excellent start in life, with the benefits of the foundation phase pilot over the past three years now bearing fruit.

"I saw the enthusiasm and confidence of children throughout the school taking the opportunity to explore, discuss, research and work together, enjoying every challenge in the revised curriculum we now offer.

"Congratulations to the whole team, pupils and parents for making this such a successful school," the Vale AM added.

Jane Hutt AM, with pupils of Holton Road Primary School during her visit.

ZooLab's visit to Holton Road Primary

CHILDREN in the Holton Primary school's foundation phase nursery classes have enjoyed a visit from the ZooLab.

They were able to observe and handle a wide variety of mini-beasts that were professionally supervised by ZooLab staff.

The youngest children in the school proved themselves to be some of the bravest as they handled some rather large insects and creatures!

Pupils in year-3 enjoyed a visit to Cog Moors, where they experimented with filters and cleaned dirty water.

They presented their findings to their peers and were congratulated on their exemplary behaviour during the trip.

ABOVE: This mouse was a welcome classroom visitor!

Pupils filtering water.

Vale sports personality 2008 award winners

OLYMPIC heroes David Davies and Nicole Cooke have added to their already bulging trophy cabinets by winning the senior male and female honours at the Vale of Glamorgan Sports Personality of the Year Awards.

Organised by the Vale District Sports Council and supported by the Vale Council's sports and play development team, the annual ceremony was held at the Memorial Hall in Barry and hosted by TV presenter Arfon Haines-Davies.

Unfortunately, neither David nor Nicole were able to pick up their awards in person as they are both away training, but David's father Paul and Nicole's mother Denise were proud to collect the trophies on their behalf.

The awards recognised both elite performers who made the headlines during 2008, up and coming future stars, and a number of lesser-known individuals who are making a huge impact on the Vale's sporting scene.

The public were invited to make their nominations for the awards late last year before a judging panel whittled them down to the winners, who received large glass trophies, while the runners-up in each category received smaller glass trophies.

The winners now also have their names engraved on a shield, cementing their place in the Vale's sporting history.

In all, there were 10 award categories, and those celebrating were karate expert Chloe Fry (junior female), Welsh champion gymnast Iwan Mepham (junior male), all-rounder James Savory (disabled sportsperson) and Sandra Mullins, who took the 'unsung hero' title for her dedication to Sully Sports FC and football development in the Vale.

Vale Karate's Rob Copeland was named 'community coach of the year' and was runner-up to experienced gymnastics coach Peter Haysham in the 'performance coach' category.

After establishing itself as the top surf lifesaving club in Wales, Rhoose Lifeguards won the award for 'team of the year', while the enthusiasm of both teachers and pupils at Gwenfo C/W Primary School earned them the 'school of the year' title.

Coun Anthony Ernest, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure and tourism, said: "I would like to thank the District Sports Council as the awards evening was a great success, showing the depth of commitment by every finalist to their chosen sport, and it must have been extremely difficult for the judges to select the winners.

"I am very grateful to all those who took part this year, and pay tribute to the contribution made by clubs and individuals to the success of sport throughout the Vale."

Special guest presenters handing out the awards included councillors Gwyn John and Emlyn Williams, chair of the Vale District Sports Council Tony Smith, Chris Franks AM, shooting star Dave Phelps, British swimming's head of disability coaching Billy Pye, and Paralympic swimming legend David Roberts.

Delighted with the evening's success, Tony Smith said: "Everyone who was nominated for an award can be very proud of their achievements. It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge everyone's efforts, and I would also like to thank the award sponsors - the Vale Council, Quasar (Barry Island), Baddeleys Shoe repairs, AF Le Breton & Son and Genero. If any other organisations would like to come forward to support next year's awards, we would love to hear from them."

Results

Senior Male – Winner: David Davies (Olympic silver medal winning swimmer); runners-up: Alan Kerr (triathlon), Ian Le Breton (shooting) and Clinton Purnell (gymnastics).

Senior Female – Winner: Nicole Cooke (Olympic gold medal winning cyclist); runner-up: Natasha Paton (karate).

Junior Male – Winner: Iwan Mepham (gymnastics); runners-up: Rhys Davies (karate) and George Connelly.

Junior Female – Winner: Chloe Fry (karate); runners-up: Lana Evans (surf lifesaving) and Katie Howson (hockey).

School – Winner: Gwenfo C/W Primary School; runners-up: Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School and Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Unsung Hero – Winner: Sandra Mullins (Sully Sports FC); runners-up: Tony Williams (Vale football league) and Rob Shapland (Penarth rifle club).

Community Coach – Winner: Rob Copeland (karate); runners-up: Miff Connelly (rugby union) and Helen Stone (netball and gymnastics).

Performance Coach – Winner: Peter Haysham (gymnastics); runner-up: Rob Copeland (karate).

Disabled sportsperson – Winner: James Savory (talented multi-sportsman); runners-up: Will Griffiths (swimming) and Asa Madsen (karate).

Team – Winner: Rhoose Lifeguards; runners-up: Barry YMCA Mens Gymnastics team and Penarth Rifle Club.

David Davies' proud Dad Paul collecting his son's Vale Sports Personality award from host Arfon Haines-Davies.

ABOVE: Members of Rhoose Lifeguards, the Vale's team of the year.

With Nicole Cooke also away training, her Mum Denise picked up her senior female award.

LEFT: Vale Karate's Rob Copeland was named community coach of the year ahead of runners up Helen Stone and Miff Connelly.

James Savory holds his trophy and shield aloft after being named the Vale's disabled sportsperson of the year by Coun Gwyn John (left) and Billy Pye.

ABOVE: Sandra Mullins was rewarded for her fantastic dedication to Sully Sports FC by winning the 'unsung hero of the year' award. Either side of Sandra are runners up Tony Williams and Rob Shapland.

LEFT: Performance coach of the year Peter Haysham with Alan Le Breton.

Junior female award winner Chloe Fry and runners up Katie Howson (right) and Lana Evans are pictured with the Vale District Sports Council Chair Tony Smith (left) and swimming star David Roberts.

ABOVE: Pictured holding the 'Junior Male' shield is gymnast Iwan Mepham, together with runners-up Rhys Davies (right) and George Connelly.

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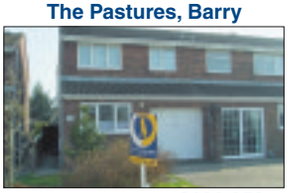

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE?

Mr Peter Llewellyn – **Ty Draw Bungalow, Picketston, St Athan** – retention of fodder store and sheep housing.
Mrs HC George – **1 The Hollies, Flanders Road, Llantwit Major** – prune an Ash tree.
Mr Rob Carrier – **12 Heol Merioneth, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – single storey lounge extension to front of property and roof alterations to existing garage.
Mr Stuart Kemp – **14 Heol Pilipala, Rhoose Point** – porch.
AMA Building Services – **9 Charles Place, Barry** – proposed enclosed staircase, alterations to dormer window and rooflights to rear elevation and adaptation and alterations to rear single storey extension to form balcony.
Savills – **land to the north of Junction 33, M4 motorway, Creigiau/St Fagans, Cardiff** – international status business park comprising 100,000 sqm employment (B1); 26,000 sqm hotel/complementary facilities/a regional transport interchange; car parking, landscaping and access.
Mr Steven Phipps – **154 Jenner Road, Barry** – demolition of existing flat roof extensions, improvements to layout including new garden room.
Mr Robert Hubbard – **Church Farmhouse, Church Farm, Monknash** – creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking.
Mr and Mrs Brian Bibb – **Middlecross House, Llancarfan** – proposed conversion of existing garage/workshop to form tourist accommodation with double garage and games room/storage over.
Mr Bruno Pereira – **2 Church Cottage, Rhoose Road, Rhoose** – concrete construction garden shed.
Tim Coward – **108 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – minor reduction of Silver Birch.
Cheryl Day – **4 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth** – replace existing windows with sliding French doors. Raise outside shop front, create decked area with railings to accommodate tables and chairs that already use the existing space.
Mr Stephen Cooper – **85 Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose** – conversion of integral garage to study; erection of porch to front entrance; erection of chimney to side for wood burning stove.
Ms Cooke – **16 Railway Terrace, Penarth** – rear extension.
Mr Iestyn Jones – **35 Voss Park Drive, Llantwit Major** – proposed single storey rear extension, two storey and rear extensions and roof conversion to property. Demolition of existing single garage.
Mrs Susan Hooper – **Maes Isha, Heol Las, Wick** – erection of stables, feed store and tack room.
Mr Robert Crump – **1 Merevale, Dinas Powys** – boundary wall and access gates to front of property.
Mr and Mrs R O'Leary – **Hendre, Michaelston-le-Pit** – Take down existing first floor conservatory and construct new study with verandah.
David O'Brien – **The Lindens, Bradford Place, Penarth** – remove one Lime.
Francois Samuel – **72A Plymouth Road, Penarth** – fell conifer.
Catherine Phillips – **4 The Verlands, Cowbridge** – pollard Lime tree.
Mr Peter John – **land off Middlegate Court, Cowbridge** – renewal of planning permission 03/00955/FUL - proposed dwelling.
Mr John Green – **Montclare, Michaelston-le-Pit, Dinas Powys** – two storey extension and internal configurations. Demolish existing garage and rebuild a new garage.
Mr G Davies – **The Old Vicarage, Pendoylan** – modifications to an approved application for demolition of existing garage and outbuildings. Replacement with new granny flat, garage and gym for private use.
Mr and Mrs Graham Bradwick – **Brynhyfryd, Heol March, Bonvilston** – attached conservatory.
Mr and Mrs K Hatton – **9 Millbrook Heights, Dinas Powys** – balcony to rear elevation.
Dr Christian Ogden – **14 Victoria Square, Penarth** – crown reduction of willow tree in back garden.
Susan Haigh – **4 Stradling Close, Cowbridge** – single storey rear extension and loft conversion to include new and enlarged dormers to the front and rear elevations.
Mrs AIM Miller – **3 Seaview Cottage, Twyn Yr Odyn, Wenvoe** – proposed conservatory to front elevation.
Mr Neil Greenaway – **Priory Cottage, Marcross** – small rear extension of approved stables conversion of application no 2005/01187/FUL, of 29/09/05. The proposal would incorporate a narrow patio (1.850mm wide) adjacent to the stable.
Mr N England – **Green Meadow, Penllyn** – demolition of single residential dwelling house with double garage annexe and replacement with two four-bedroom detached houses and two double garages with associated amenity space.
Mr Jaime Evans – **77 South Road, Sully** – ground floor extension to include en-suite bedroom and carer's accommodation. Disabled access throughout dwelling including ramps and wider doors. Raise roof of garage and convert to hobby room.
Mrs Menna Garland-Ellis – **Quills of Cowbridge, 52 High Street, Cowbridge** – replace old shop sign to front exterior.
Mr and Mrs Evans – **5 Croft Lane, Southerndown** – proposed garage and granny annexe.
Mr Paul Gaughan – **Deg Erw, Twyn yr Odyn, St Lythans** – demolition of existing detached granny annexe and construction of new integral version together with first floor extension.
Matrix Reality Investments Ltd – **land north of Hood Road, Barry Waterfront** – proposed primary care medical centre and associated works.
Mr and Mrs Pippin – **5 Four Acre, Llantwit Major** – conservatory to rear elevation.
Mr Gareth Tickner – **4 Cattwg Cottages, Llancarfan** – two storey side/rear extension.
C/o agent – **Crynallt, Llancarfan** – fell two conifers at front.
Mr Athoul Chowdhury – **70 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – re-position hanging sign and install new shop name in aluminium profile letters (six) renaming business with new name Zahins.
Mr Athoul Chowdhury – **70 Eastgate Cowbridge** – re-position hanging sign and install new shop name in aluminium profile letters (six).
Mr and Mrs Wilson – **Twin Pines, Welsh St Donats** – proposed new garage for three cars and log store.
Mr Damon Sylvester – **9 Anchor Road, Penarth Marina, Penarth** – conversion of existing integral garage into study.
Mr and Mrs Fairfax – **Warren Mill Farm Park, Pendoylan** – retrospective application to regularise planning consent 2001/01221/FUL.
Mr Ivor Chestnut – **2 Badgers Brook Drive, Ystradowen** – proposed ground floor rear extension.
Mr and Mrs Nicholas Colmsee – **The Coach House, Peterston Super Ely** – extension to ground floor conservatory and construction of first floor external balcony above, construction of dormer roof and chimney breast to side.
Mr Mark Haynes – **St Athan Primary School, Rock Road, St Athan** – installation of wind turbine near eastern boundary.
Mrs P Whittington – **The Pines, Wick Road, Ewenny** – fell four Corsican pines and replace.
Mr Bill Ellis – **93 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – installation of new conservatory and removal of old.
Mr Anthony Neill – **90 Colcot Road, Barry** – proposed rear extension and roof alterations.
Mrs Sian Jones – **13 Taf Close, Barry** – proposed bedroom/bathroom/lobb-y extension to rear and side of existing bungalow.
Mrs Karen Pimbley – **69 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – installation of new and replacement velux windows.
Mr Adrian Rowe – **1B Park Avenue, Barry** – single storey side extension and introduce gable end to pine of property.
Mr Dean Griffiths – **27 Blackberry Drive, Barry** – proposed first floor extension above garage.
Mr Steve Moggridge – **9 Clement Place, Barry** – proposed detached garage.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – **council-owned public open space adjacent Cogan Hall Farm, Sully Road, Penarth** – layout and landscaping of public open space.
Regularise diversion of Footpath No 12.
Sodexo – **4 School of Technical Training, MoD St Athan (East Camp), St Athan** – temporary five year planning permission for the relocation of 4 School of Technical Training within MoD St Athan. Involving the use of existing buildings, the erection of 10 new temporary modular buildings, the extension to an existing building, the construction of a Multiple Use Games Area, and the construction of additional associated parking areas and associated ancillary works.
Mr Wheeler – **20 Hilda Street, Barry** – demolition of existing porch and erection of conservatory to side.
Mr and Mrs M Bates – **9 Plassey Street, Penarth** – proposed front entrance porch and single storey rear extension to provide garden room and wet room.
Mr David Phipps – **263 Holton Road, Barry** – conversion of existing betting shop to two bedroom flat.
Mr C Crawley – **Five Gables, Llandow, Cowbridge** – first floor extension above existing garage.
Mr Robert Thomas – **Highfield Farm, Colwinstone, Cowbridge** – small domestic wind turbine.
Mr Philip Hanmer – **Ffermdy Gwyn, Pendoylan** – proposed timber balcony.
Mr Owen Rees – **Bryn Farm, Pontsarn Lane, Clawdd Coch, Pendoylan** – proposed cattle feeding barn.

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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
College Fields Cl	56	Gold	17/03/09
Elis Fisher Ct	20	Gold	10/10/06
Ffordd Elin	120	Gold	24/06/08
Magellan Close	140	Gold	21/08/08

Additional feedback will appear in the next advert

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Barry learners shine in British college volleyball championships

The Barry College volleyball team. Back row, left to right: sport and fitness tutor Heather Morrison, principal and chief executive Paul Halstead, sport and fitness tutor James Young. In the front row (centre) is sport learner and table tennis player Rachael Hardy.

AFTER Welsh Colleges competitions, eight Barry College students recently competed in the British Colleges National championships at Loughborough University.

Invited either as best individual or team performers, the Barry College contingent included the male volleyball team: Ben Luck as captain, Chris Rees, Thomas Schembri, Ralph Windle, Glen Harper and Nathan Gates.

All are BTEC national diploma in sport development, coaching and fitness learners. They were placed eighth in the three-day competition.

BTEC National diploma in sport and exercise science learner Victoria Jackson represented the college in cross country where she was rated the16th fastest cross country runner in all colleges in Wales, England and Scotland.

Rachael Hardy, BTEC National Diploma in sport development coaching and fitness, came seventh in the female table tennis competition.

Barry College sport and fitness tutor James Young, said: "Very well done to all concerned! Hopefully, Vicky and Rachael will be able to improve upon their performances next year as they will then be on the second year of their respective courses. The future of sport at Barry College looks very promising!"

Volleyball results

Barry College Volleyball (Wales) versus East Midlands Region (13-25, 9-25); Barry College Volleyball (Wales) versus North West Region (15-25, 15-25); Barry College Volleyball (Wales) versus North East Region (17-25, 10-25); Barry College Volleyball (Wales) versus West Midlands Region (14-25, 21-25); Barry College Volleyball (Wales) versus East Region (17-25, 17-25).

Table tennis

Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus West Midlands Region (2- 3); Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus South East Region (0-3); Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus South West Region (0-3); Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus North West Region (0-3); Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus East Region (3-0); Rachael Hardie (Wales) versus East Midlands Region (0-3).

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

OGMORE by Sea retired residents enjoyed a talk by Joyce James of the Bridgend Book Club, on her visit to Israel.

LADIES Thursday Club made their own entertainment this week when Dawn once again came up with an interesting topic of 'unusual and interesting names'.

AGE CONCERN (Western Vale Good Neighbours Scheme) are holding a coffee morning on Thursday, June 4, in the Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, at 10am-12pm. Admission £1.50 in aid of the scheme.

WICK bank holiday tea party took place at the village hall, in aid of St James Church, Wick, on May 23, when a sumptuous tea was served up by ladies dressed like (Lyons Corner House waitresses) in lace white caps and aprons.

The partygoers were entertained by pupils of year-4 and year-5 from Wick school, who performed song, poetry, and musical items on guitar, saxophone and piano.

HERITAGE Coast rangers arranged a walk around Ogmore by Sea coast line on May 24, looking at fossils and geology.

On Sunday, June 7, another walk is arranged looking at coastal birds. Meet at Nash Point (Lighthouse) at 10.30am.

THE PACT meeting will be held at the church hall, St Brides Major, on Wednesday, June 3, at 6pm.

ST BRIDES MAJOR branch of the Mothers Union meet for corporate communion on Friday, May 29, at All Saints Church, Southerndown.

BACH CONCERT

THE CARDIFF Bach Choir will be performing in All Saints Church in Penarth on Saturday, June 13, at 7.30pm.

The concert will be in aid of Cancer Research UK. *Tickets are available from members of the choir, the Cancer Research shop in Penarth and at the door on the night.*

Dyspraxia support

THE next monthly meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held at Barry Hospital at 7.30pm, on Monday, June 1.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group helps children with dyspraxia and their parents with information, support and awareness raising.

It works with schools and is piloting a project using laptops to help children with dyspraxia.

Situations Vacant

The Cowbridge and Western Vale Group Practice

Practice Nurse

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and motivated nurse to join our practice.
The ideal candidate will have a background in primary care, excellent interpersonal skills and the highest clinical standards.

The hours will be 19.5 per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, grade depending on experience.
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Five weeks annual leave.

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25 hours minimum each week; £6.62 per hour.
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If you are interested in applying for either post, please apply in writing to: Mrs Hold, Practice Manager, The Health Centre, Old Hall Grounds, Cowbridge CF71 7AH.

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Family Notices

JOHN William Howell

Peacefully on May 23, 2009 in hospital, Bill of Llantwit Major, dearly-loved husband of the late Pat; loving father to Kevin, Stephen and Elaine; father-in-law to Sandy and Madeleine, and grandfather to Darren, Matthew and Marc. Funeral service on Friday June 5, 2009 in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2.00pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son on 01446 792489.

Lost & Found

MISSING DOG!

Much loved family dog, last seen on Merthyr Mawr sand dunes.

If you have seen this dog, please ring **01656 652038 or 07969 735008.** *Substantial reward offered.*

Birth Notices

Congratulations to
Rachel & Barry Sweeney
on the birth of their
beautiful baby daughter
'Lily Elizabeth'
on May 20, 2009
Lots of love, Mum & Dad and all the family.
XXXX

Motors For Sale

53 MERCEDES E270 TDi Classic in silver, leather seats, service history, taxed 6 months, MoT til February 2010
£8,995 ono
07799 863192 19

05 Plate MAZDA 6 Metallic silver with ac, c/c, e/w, e/n, cd, alloys, multiple airbags, Tax & MoT
£6,295 ono
01446 748179
07530 387857
No Canvassers 20

P Reg Vauxhall Astra Auto 1.6 5-door Excellent condition, e/w, MoT til October, Taxed til July
£550 ono
01446 771585 20

1999 TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTi Silver, taxed Dec 2009, MoT 12 months, alloys, air con, 73,000 miles
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01446 772575 20

02 Vauxhall Vectra 2.2 SRi 150 Estate Silver, half leather, cd, a/c, abs, e/pack, nice alloys and tyres, towbar, MoT, tax, gret condition inside and out.
£2,495 ono
07961 022004
No canvassers 19

56 Plate 1.25 FORD FIESTA Style Climate 5-dr 8,700 miles, low mileage, low insurance group, 12 months tax, fsh, 1st MoT due November 2009. Immaculate condition
£5,950
01446 420802
07989 687877 19

Black 53 Plate Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto Long MOT & Tax, 58k, air con, alloys.
£2,700 ono
07545 352564 21

1999 T Reg Peugeot 106 Zest 2 1.1 MOT October, 3-Dr, 60k, CD, Met. Green.
£950 ono
07752 537959 21

1999 1.9 Diesel Renault Kangoo Van 87,000 miles, roofrack & towbar, ex. runner, 10 months MOT.
£850 ono
01446 794953 21

1998 R Reg Daihatsu 4 Trak Blue, MOT, serviced in May, 8 months Tax, excellent tow vehicle, new rear shocks, recent battery, starter motor, water pump & thermostat.
£2,250
01446 792866
07870 896608 21

98 S BMW 316 Coupe Black, 8 months MoT, taxed, full BMW service history. Goodcondition.
£1,995
or very near offer
Tel. 07966 171840 21

2008 C-Max 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr MPV, black, air con, CD, electrics.
£9,600 ono
01446 719887 21

2003 DIESEL Fiesta Zetec 78,700 miles, FSH, £35 per year Tax, 60+ MPG, tax & MOT October 09.
£3,300 ono
01446 711533 21

V Reg Ford Escort Flight TD White, lots of features, just serviced, Tax & MOT, good condition, totally reliable car.
£550 ono
07889 935090 22

W Reg 2000 Ford Ka 1.3 Blue, MOT Nov 2009, Tax Oct 2009, 50,000 miles, very reliable.
£950 ono
07523 330473 22

03 Plate BMW 3 Series 2-Dr Convertible Topaz Blue, petrol engine with manual gearbox, 55,000 approx miles, MOT May 2010, grey leather interior, excellent condition.
£11,500 ono
01446 795181 22

X Reg Rover 25 1.6 3 door, 69,000 miles, MOT Jan 10, Tax Sept 09, new head gasket, cam belt. Good car.
£795
01446 743575 or
07812 192638 22

2000 W Reg Toyota HiAce SWB Van 96k, one owner, blue, new MOT, very clean.
£2,400
07976 299105 22

51 Volvo V40 1.8 Excellent condition, FSH, one owner from new, Tax & MOT November 2009.
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SEALY 6' x 6'6" Four drawer divan and mattress, with Ducal headboard. Excellent condition, £250. Tel: 07791 956237. **(22)**

KAMODE £50 ono. Free standing shower seat £20. Both in good condition. Tel: 01446 794072. **(22)**

CRASTMATIC Adjustable single bed (never used), £250 ono. Tel: 01446 747234. **(22)**

BRITAX ECLIPSE Car seat (9mths-4yrs) £50. Graco battery operated baby swing £30. Grandparents items, as new. Tel: 01446 732783 or 07980 939487. **(21)**

PORAWOTTA TOILET Manual flush. Jayrider scooter dismantle (brand new), wheelchair (brand new), hedgecutter (brand new), trimmer (brand new), Bathmaster Sonaris (brand new), walking frame (brand new), folding wheel walker, folding tri-wheeld walker, leather sofa (good condition). Offers. Tel: 01656 890489. **(21)**

2 X MAXICOSY PRIORI XP Car seats, 9 month/4 years (like new) £25 each. Tel: 01446 796904. **(21)**

ROUND ANTIQUE Pine table and four chairs, very good condition £60 ono. Tel: 01446 738799. **(21)**

ROUND TABLE 42" diameter & 4 chairs, modern design, medium colour. Good condition £50 ono. Tel: 01446 760070. **(21)**

BRITANNIA range cooker, currently with an LPG hob (easily converted) £350. Tel: 01446 771229. **(21)**

CREDA CAPRI Electric cooker, excellent condition £75. Tel: 01446 738091. **(20)**

CORNDELL PINE Matching dining table, 4 chairs, nest of tables, bookcase & TV cabinet. Offers. Tel: 07870 499451. **(20)**

PHIL & TED Double buggy, red and black inc. rain cover, good condition, paid £500, sell £180. Maxi Cosi red/black car seat £50. Graco 3 in 1 pram set, as new £70. Tel: 07800 963126. **(20)**

FRIDGE FREEZER Integrated with cabinet, 3 years old £65. Tel: 01446 734772. **(20)**

NEW STAINLESS STEEL CANOPY extractor with telescopic chimney, 4 speed settings, also comes with two cooking spot controls, all push button controls, £100 ono. Tel. 07709 273069. **(19)**

HEALTH RIDER Exercise machine £50. Abroller £5. Trampet £8. Tabletop snooker table £35. Butterfly rollaway table tennis table. Both with accessories £60. Tel: 01446 773590. **(19)**

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Public Notices

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CHARTERED SURVEYORS APPOINT CHAIRMAN

RICS Wales director Cathy McLean welcomes the new council chair, Michael Lawley.

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Wales has appointed a new chair to oversee the direction of its 4,000 members in Wales and ensure their voice is heard in land, property and construction issues.

Michael Lawley, who has taken the position as chair of the RICS Wales Council for the next two and a half years, is the managing director of Cooke & Arkwright, chartered surveyors in Cardiff.

He said: "It is a great honour to be asked to take on this position. I am delighted to be able to make a contribution to the significant role that RICS now plays in the professional and business community in Wales."

Mr Lawley has 30 years' experience in the surveying industry and has responsibility for consultancy and development advice, including residential land matters.

He has been at Cooke & Arkwright for the past 28 years, and is also a governor of the University of Glamorgan and a director of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

He commented: "It is a very tough economic environment, especially in property sectors where the effects have been felt since late 2007.

"The collapse of the housing and investment markets, along with the decline of other property sectors, has meant it has been a very hard time for anybody in this sector, with high levels of redundancy.

"RICS has set up a support line to provide help and advice to members faced with redundancy and also has a helpline which provides free advice for members of the public.

"With RICS Wales, I believe it is now important to look beyond the recession to a recovery in the property market and I think that chartered surveyors will play a key part in leading the way through that.

"My new role will be to respond to members' needs, work closely with professional groups to raise the profile of chartered surveyors in Wales and take an executive role in representing a view from the national association in Wales at RICS UK governing council meetings."

He is also a member of the CBI Wales Council and also a private sector appointee to the Land, Property and Urban Regeneration Group of the South-East Wales Economic Forum.

RICS Wales director, Cathy McLean, said: "Mike is taking the reins of the RICS Wales Council at a difficult time but his expertise in the industry makes him ideal for the job.

"RICS plays a key role in supporting the thousands of members working in Wales as well as welcoming young people into the industry and generate understanding on the breadth and depth of the surveyor's role."

Kitchen recycling trial to expand

THE Vale Council's kitchen waste recycling scheme is to be made permanent.

Around 5,000 properties across Barry Island, Dinas Powys, Sully, Lower Penarth/Lavernock and St Athan were involved in a three-month recycling pilot earlier this year.

The council cabinet has now agreed to introduce the collection scheme there on a permanent basis, and include a further 2,000 residents. Kitchen waste will continue to be collected weekly, with black bin bag collections on alternate weeks.

Miles Punter, head of visible services, said: "Of all the kitchen waste pilots undertaken across partner local authorities, Vale of Glamorgan residents have helped to ensure the Vale has achieved some of the best results for tonnages collected, participation and low contamination across the country.

The council's cabinet shortly will be considering proposals to roll out the kerbside kitchen waste scheme through the entire Vale .

CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS AA

ST RICHARD GWYN'S SEXTON TAKES THE PLAUDITS AT MEET

AFTER dry days for both the Senior Cup Final and the Senior championships, the elements changed for the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' third fixture of the summer programme – the Middle championships for pupils in years 10 and 11 – at the new Leckwith stadium.

The temperature dropped, the unhelpful headwind was chilly, and a light drizzle for much of the early part of the five hours meeting, made life unpleasant for athletes, teachers and officials.

Vale pupils and schools will have left the venue with mixed emotions. Given that this event is intended as a stepping stone for the selection of the Cardiff & the Vale team to compete at the Aviva Welsh Schools Nationals, to be held at the same venue on July 4, with the possibility that good performances at that event might lead to international selection for the Welsh Schools team at the Aviva SIAB under-17 international in Belfast on July 18, there were some very encouraging individual performances, but there was significant disappointment in the on-the day team competition.

Fourteen of the 35 individual titles on offer were claimed by Vale athletes.

Arguably, the best of those victories came in the second half of the programme, when conditions were a little drier. It came in the final of the boys' 100 metres, run into a 1.6 metres per second headwind, and it was a victory for a pupil from St Richard Gwyn High School.

Year-11 Jamie Sexton powered his way through the difficult conditions to take the title in a very close finish. His time of 11.4 seconds was shared by last year's Welsh Schools under-15 champion Jamaul Whyte (St Teilo's) in second, and by third-placed Steffan Jones (Bro Morgannwg), while James Wiltshire (St Cyres) clocked 11.5 in fourth and Tom Phillips (Stanwell) was fifth on 11.6.

There was determined running in the 100 metres heats from long jump winner Shanelle Edwards (Bro Morgannwg).

In the past, it has often been difficult for performances at Cardiff & the Vale Schools events to be credited onto the nationally recognised UKA Power of Ten rankings.

Thankfully, a change in the company dealing with that event has made things easier, and it is encouraging to both the athletes and the schools' associations to see that these times rank the pupils at the top of the Welsh rankings.

Those performances also suggest that the Cardiff & the Vale Middle boys relay team could have a chance of victory in the 4 x 100 metres on July 4 – but to achieve that all the boys will need to stay to the end of the meeting this year!

Earlier in the day, James Wiltshire had eased through his heat of the 400 metres to qualify for the final, but then showed his power to storm to an encouraging victory in 53.3 seconds.

Boys from Cowbridge claimed three titles. In the 800 metres, the boys had to run heat and final, a new experience for some of them, and it was year-11 Rhys Allin who came away with a win, but in a slow time.

Sam Bunkham took the triple jump with a best of 12.03 metres, while in a shot competition that produced a number of surprises, it was Reuben Tucker who beat both the winner of the recent Senior Cup Final, Daniel Clarke (St Cyres), and the two Vale year-10 athletes, who have dominated the under-15 championships for the last two summers – Ben Harding (St Cyres) and Mathew Daniel (Llantwit).

The experienced Scott Hewins (Llantwit) claimed a win in a respectable javelin competition with a best throw of 42.88 metres, while Bradley Cole (St Cyres) showed real potential in winning the hammer title with a distance in excess of 30 metres.

In the girls' competitions, the top two Vale performances came in very differing conditions. Year-10 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) had to battle both the elements and close rival Aimee Hendrickson (Bishop of Llandaff) in both heat and final to take the 300 metres title in 43.2 seconds, while Shanelle Edwards (Bro Morgannwg) made the most of better conditions later in the afternoon to take the long jump title, and the scalp of top pentathlete Sara Otung (Kings Monkton) with a leap of 4.72 metres.

In the middle distance events, Vale year-10

Declan Court (Cardiff High 156), and Darran Jones (Llantwit 14) battle it out for the 3,000 metres title.

pupils won the 800 metres and 1,500 metres titles. Eloise Laity (Westbourne) added the middle 800 crown to last year's under-15 win, while the ever-improving Bethan Daw finished clear in the 1,500 metres, taking a fourth title for St Cyres.

On the field, Nisha Shie (Cowbridge) was a surprise winner in the high jump, while Bro Morgannwg pupils Leah Thomas and Jamie Treweeks won the triple jump and javelin events. Because of the wet and slippery conditions at the start of the meeting, the javelin competitors were only allowed standing throws.

All 14 Vale winners at this event will receive their awards at the Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Schools Track & Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High Schools on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

In the team competitions, Bro Morgannwg have won the girls' section for the last four years and also won a very tight boys' competition by 1.5 points last year. Sadly, there was to be no repeat success as Cardiff High won the boys' section by over 70 points and Whitchurch claimed the girls' title for the first time since 2004. There were encouraging performances from St Cyres boys and Bryn Hafren girls.

Vale performances – Middle Boys (under-17)
100: Ht 1 ws: -0.6 1 Jamie Sexton (St Rich Gwyn) 11.4; 2 Steffan Jones (Bro M) 11.7; 4 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 11.8; 6 James Ray-Parsons (Llantwit) 12.7; 7 Sam Street (Cow) 13.3; Ht 2 ws: -1.7 2 Dan Phillips (Stan) 12.1; 8 Tom Ireland (Barry) 13.4; Ht 3 ws: -1.9 1 Tom Phillips (Stan) 12.3; 4 Dane Sexton (Cow) 12.5; 5 Duke Durham (St Cyres) 12.6; 6 Nathan Taylor (Barry) 13.0; Ht 4 ws: -0.9 2 Matt Roberts (Llantwit) 12.5; 5 Kieran Bowen (Bro M) 12.7; 7 Alex Davies (St Rich Gwyn) 13.4; Fin ws: -1.6 1 Jamie Sexton (St Rich Gwyn) 11.4; 3 Steffan Jones (Bro M) 11.4; 4 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 11.5; 5 Tom Phillips (Stan) 11.6; 6 Dan Phillips (Stan) 11.9
200: Ht1 2 Ashley Williams (Llantwit) 24.9; 3 Kieron Bowen (Bro M) 25.4; 4 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 25.5; Ht2 1 Elliot Leachman (St Cyres) 24.4; 4 Ethan Dicks (Barry) 25.7; 6 Kurt Fackrell (Cow) 27.3; 7 Shanon Horrigan (St Rich Gwyn) 28.1; Ht3 2 Ben Harding (St Cyres) 24.2; 6 Cory Allen (Bro M) 25.9; 7 Tom Ireland (Barry) 26.5; Fin ws: -1.7 3 Ben Harding (St Cyres) 23.9; 4 Elliott Leachman (St Cyres) 24.5; 6 Ashley Williams (Llantwit) 25.5
400: Ht 1 2 Tom Phillips (Stan) 54.7; 5 Lloyd Martin (Bro M) 57.6; 6 Elliott Thorne (St Cyres) 57.8; Ht 2 4 Alex Simon (Llantwit) 58.6; Ht3 5 Andrew Williams (Llantwit) 65.4; Ht4 1 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 58.1; 2 Jack Sellick (Stan) 59.3; 3 Jason Butcher (Bro M) 64.0; 4 Sam Morgan (Cow) 73.4; Fin: 1 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 53.3; 6 Tom Phillips (Stan) 56.0
800: Ht 1 2 Rhys Allin (Cow) 2:19.5; 8 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 2:26.4; 9 Zack Cleary (Barry) 2:26.4; 12 Ieuan Donovan (Bro M) 2:32.0; Ht2 2 Richard Pilcher (Bro M) 2:18.8; 3 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 2:21.4; 4 Josh Thomas (Cow) 2:22.7; 7 Nathan Taylor (Barry) 2:26.0; 9 Liam Union (Stan) 2:31.0; 14 Andrew Williams (Llantwit) 2:39.2; Fin 1 Rhys Allin (Cow) 2:15.5; 3 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 2:16.8; 4 Richard Pilcher (Bro M) 2:18.1
1,500: 4 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 4:47.2; 7 Tieran Scott (Bro M) 4:55.5; 9 Einan Scott (Bro M) 4:57.2; 12 John Davies (Cow) 5:02.8; 14 Dan Ruffle (Llantwit) 5:39.2; 15 Curtis Adeva (St Rich Gwyn) 5:49.6
3,000: 2 Darren Jones (Llantwit) 10:06.1; 4 Dominic Farr (Bro M) 10:40.8; 5 Rhys George (Bro M) 10:43.3; 6 Sam Middlemiss (St Cyres) 10:43.8; 7 John Davies (Cow) 10:45.6
100H: Ht 1 1 Rhys Allin (Cow) 17.4; 2 Ellis Spear (Bro M) 17.8; Ht 2 5 James Williams (Cow) 19.2; Fin ws: -0.3 3 Rhys Allin (Cow) 16.3; 5 Ellis Spear (Bro M) 17.0
400H: 4 Duke Durhan (St Cyres) 64.3; 5 Dafydd Davies (Bro M) 64.3; 6 Sam Morgan (Cow) 65.1; 7 James Glaves (Bro M) 67.4
1,500 Sc: 2 Darren Jones (Llantwit) 5:14.0; 4 Tom Howles (Llantwit) 5:38.7; 7 Dylan Morgan (Cow) 5:58.4; 8 Rhodri Hutchinson (Cow) 5:59.8; 9 Josh Rowe (Bro M) 6:00.3; 10 Adeel Arshad (St Cyres) 6:04.0; 11 Jake Connelly (Bro M) 6:09.8
HJ: 2 Cory Allen (Bro M) 1.65; 6 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 1.55; 9 Dafydd Davies (Bro M) 1.50; 12 Jake Lougher (Barry) 1.50; 13= Josh Thomas (Cow) 1.45; 16 Stephen Cole (Llantwit) 1.45; 17 Sam Middlemiss (St Cyres) 1.40; 18 Joshua Griffiths (Barry) 1.40
PV: 4 Jake Connelly (Bro M) 2.20; 5= Josh Rowe (Bro M) 2.00
LJ: 3 Rhys Allin (Cow) 5.73; 5 Sam Norman (Bro M) 5.44; 6 Matt Roberts (Llantwit) 5.30; 7 Joshua Griffiths (Barry) 5.22; 15 Lloyd Jerwood (Cow) 4.92; 16 Yanni Haralambos Whitchurch 4.91; 17 Bradley Miller (Barry) 4.70; 18 Luke Spear (Bro M) 4.66; 19 Mitchell Brownhill (St Cyres) 4.61; 20 James Lyn (St Rich Gwyn) 4.51; 23 Ben Furlong (St Rich Gwyn) 4.12; 24 Andrew Breed (St Cyres) 4.08
TJ: 1 Sam Bunkham (Cow) 12.03; 4 Jack Selleck (Stan) 11.62; 5 Duke Durham (St Cyres) 11.49; 10 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 10.87; 11 Jamie Dunmore (Llantwit) 10.84; 12 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 10.84; 14 Nathan Taylor (Barry) 10.64; 15 Zack Deere (Bro M) 10.53; 20 Ashley Close (Barry) 10.23; 22 Ieuan Donovan (Bro M) 9.30
SP: 1 Reuben Tucker (Cow) 12.21; 2 Ben Harding (St Cyres) 12.18; 3 Dan Clark (St Cyres) 11.59; 4 Michael Daniels (Llantwit) 10.97; 8 Tom Perry (Bro M) 10.28; 11 Dillon Morgan (Cow) 9.85; 13 Rhodri Phillips (Barry) 9.53; 14 Ethan Dicks (Barry) 9.40; 15 Sam Norman (Bro M) 9.34; 17 Liam Union (Stan) 9.02; 18 Sam Pickford (Llantwit) 8.96; 20 George Pycroft (St Rich Gwyn) 8.90
DT: 3 Tom Perry (Bro M) 28.63; 7 Sam Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 24.90; 8 Ethan Dicks (Barry) 24.66; 10 Seb Vidal (Bro M) 23.70; 12 Sam Pickford (Llantwit) 22.98; 15 Michael Daniels (Llantwit) 22.28; 19 Cori Gorman (Cow) 15.87; 20 James Lin (St Rich Gwyn) 15.08
HT: 1 Bradley Cole (St Cyres) 31.41; 3 Tom Perry (Bro M) 24.40; 4 Scott Hewins (Llantwit) 23.68; 6 Michael Daniels (Llantwit) 23.21; 9 Seb Vidal (Bro M) 22.84; 10 Reuben Tucker (Cow) 22.34; 15 Sam Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 19.85
JT: 1 Scott Hewins (Llantwit) 42.88; 3 Josh Rowe (Bro M) 39.44; 5 Michael Hamonda (Barry) 34.84; 7 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 33.88; 14 Bradley Cole (St Cyres) 30.71; 15 Ben Such (Cow) 30.63; 18 Sam Mitten (Cow) 28.93; 21 Dafydd Davies (Bro M) 27.70; 23 Louis Viader (Stan) 23.08; 24 Fraser Wheatley (Llantwit) 22.86; Elliott Hicks (St Rich Gwyn) nt; Ryan Harris (St Rich Gwyn) nt; Rhys West (Barry) nt
2Km Walk: 5 Andrew Breed (St Cyres) 13:19.3; 6 Richard Pilcher (Bro M) 13:23.4; 7 Adeel Arshad (St Cyres) 13:32.4; 8 Zac Deere (Bro M) 13:33.2; 11 Corrie Gorman (Cow) 14:16.0; 12 Rhodri Hutcheson (Cow) 14:16.0
4x100: Ht 1 1 St Cyres 47.7; 5 Bro Morgannwg 49.0; Ht 2 2 Cowbridge 48.4; 3 St Richard Gwyn 48.7; 4 Llantwit 49.2; Fin 3 St Cyres 48.6; 4 Cowbridge 48.7; 6 Bro Morgannwg 50.7; St Rich Gwyn dnc
Team: 2 Bro Morgannwg 299; 5= Cowbridge 212; 5= St Cyres 212; 7 Llantwit 145; 12= St Richard Gwyn 59; 12= Barry Comprehensive 59; 15 Stanwell 47

Middle Girls (under-17)
100: Ht 1 ws: -0.8 2 Mollie Kane (St Rich Gwyn) 14.8; Ht 2 ws: -0.5 2 Ellie Carter (Bryn Haf) 13.9; 3 Eleri Phillips Griffiths (Bro M) 14.8; 5 Hannah Clist (Cow) 16.3; Ht 4 ws: -1.8 2 Shanelle Edwards (Bro M) 13.8; 3 Becky Cornelius (Bryn Haf) 14.4; 5 Alice Palmer Evans (Cow) 15.2; 6 Ainsley Vines (St Rich Gwyn)) 15.3; Fin ws: -0.6 4 Shanelle Edwards (Bro M) 13.6; 5 Ellie Carter (Bryn Haf) 13.7; 8 Mollie Kane (St Rich Gwyn) 15.0; Becky Cornelius (Bryn Haf) dnc
200: Ht1 1 Eloise Laity (West) 28.4; 3 Eleri Phillips Griffiths (Bro M) 30.2; 6 Alice Palmer Evans (Cow) 31.5; Ht2 3 Jessica Hayes (Cow) 30.9; 4 Sidony Crowther (Llantwit) 31.3; Ht3 2 Ellie Carter (Bryn Haf) 29.0; 5 Mollie Kane (St Rich Gwyn) 30.4; 7 Bethan Purcall (Bro M) 31.5; Fin ws: -1.0 3 Eloise Laity (West) 27.6; 4 Ellie Carter (Bryn Haf) 28.8; Eleri Phillips Griffiths (Bro M) dnc

100 metres winner Jamie Sexton ran the anchor leg for the St Richard Gwyn relay team.

300: Ht 1 3 Ainsley Vines (St Rich Gwyn) 51.3; 6 Lydia James (Cow) 54.9; Ht 2 1 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) 44.0; 4 Lisa Williams (Bro M) 49.1; Fin 1 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) 43.2; 6 Lisa Williams (Bro M) 50.3
800: 1 Eloise Laity (West) 2:32.7; 3 Storm Morham (St Rich Gwyn) 2.48.8; 7 Sabrina James (Cow) 2.55.4; 8 Megan Doyle (Bryn Haf) 2.55.6; 9 Chloe Jones (Stan) 2.56.4; 13 Bethan Butler (Bro M) 3.02.7; 14 Lisa Williams (Bro M) 3.04.4; 15 Rosie Dent (Cow) 3.07.2; 19 Lauren Westerland (Llantwit) 3:11.7; 21 Amy Baldry (Llantwit) 3:14.8
1,500: 1 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 5:22.3; 7 Danielle Edgerton (Bro M) 6:06.4; 9 Jade Deverell (Bryn Haf) 6:15.0; 13 Amy Baldry (Llantwit) 6:26.4; 14 Molly Llewellyn (Cow) 6:37.1; 17 Verity Morgan (Cow) 6:50.3
3,000: 3 Cerri-Anne Santos (St Cyres) 13:06.4; 5 Holly Preece (Cow) 13:55.8; 8 Kenna Murdock (Cow) 14:45.3
80H: Ht 1 4 Storm Morham (St Rich Gwyn) 15.6; 6 Megan Allman (Cow) 16.6; 8 Rebecca Morris (Bro M) 21.4; Ht 2 5 Ashley Dunn (Llantwit) 16.3; 6 Bethan Heslop (Bro M) 17.2; 7 Charlotte Waller (St Rich Gwyn) 17.5; Ht3 1 Natalie Parsons (Llantwit) 14.4; 7 Lauren Rowe (Bryn Haf) 21.2; Fin ws: -1.0 4 Natalie Parsons (Llantwit) 13.8; 8 Storm Morham (St Rich Gwyn) 15.9
300H: 5 Bethan Heslop (Bro M) 57.1
HJ: 1 Nisha Shie (Cow) 1.40; 3 Leah Barratt (Llantwit) 1.40; 4 Leah Thorn (Bro M) 1.35; 5 Molly Llewellyn (Cow) 1.30; 8 Finlay Haswell (Bro M) 1.30; 9= Danielle Lane (Stan) 1.25; 20 Megan Vickery (Bryn Haf) 1.15; 21 Chloe Westall (St Rich Gwyn) 1.10
LJ: 1 Shanelle Edwards (Bro M) 4.72; 3 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) 4.55; 13 Sidony Crowther (Llantwit) 3.84; 15 Lauren Phillips (Stan) 3.59; 17 Chloe Westall (St Rich Gwyn) 3.50; 18 Gwen Willox (Bro M) 3.48; 21 Jade Chadwick (Cow) 3.40; 23 Rachel Walsh (St Rich Gwyn) 3.35; 26 Evie Sewell (St Cyres) 3.23; 28 Lydia James (Cow) 3.14; Demi Brown (West) nj
TJ: 1 Leah Thomas (Bro M) 8.81; 4 Gwen Willox (Bro M) 8.18; 7 Rachel Walsh (St Rich Gwyn) 7.57; Mollie Kane (St Rich Gwyn) nj; Bethan Hollinshead (Bryn Haf) nj; Mari-Ann Hatcher (Bryn Haf) nj
SP: 2 Jess Richards (Llantwit) 7.59; 3 Louise Edwards (Cow) 6.97; 5 Harriet Lewis (Bro M) 6.62; 8 Lucy Mitchell (Bryn Haf) 6.50; 9 Bethan Davis (Bro M) 6.49; 10 Jessica Hayes (Cow) 6.39; 13 Rochelle Gough (Stan) 6.09; 16 Jessica Dawe (St Rich Gwyn) 5.75; 21 Nicola Andersen (St Rich Gwyn) 4.99; 24 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 4.22; 25 Olivia Richards (St Cyres) 3.69
DT: 2 Lisa Williams (Bro M) 19.08; 5 Jess Richards (Llantwit) 18.08; 7 Lucy Mitchell (Bryn Haf) 17.57; 12 Bethan Davies (Bro M) 16.18; 17 Olivia Hume (Cow) 15.14; 20 Nicola Anderson (St Rich Gwyn) 14.52; 22 Louise Edwards (Cow) 13.49; 24 Jessica Dawe (St Rich Gwyn) 12.40
HT: 5 Nicola Andresen (St Rich Gwyn) 17.70; 6 Jess Richards (Llantwit) 16.73; 7 Bethan Davies (Bro M) 16.48; 8 Becky Jones (Bro M) 15.52; 9 Chloe Westall (St Rich Gwyn) 14.03; 11 Danielle Davis (Llantwit) 13.83; 13 Amy Taylor (Cow) 11.86; 16 Louise Edwards (Cow) 6.60
JT: 1 Jamie Treweeks (Bro M) 19.44; 2 Toyah Newman (Bryn Haf) 18.49; 4 Becky Jones (Bro M) 18.22; 9 Ammie Wathan (St Cyres) 16.02; 11 Hannah Yarr (Bryn Haf) 14.95; 12 Jodie Ackland (Llantwit) 14.51; 17 Danielle Davis (Llantwit) 13.52; 18 Lauren Hooper (Cow) 13.51; 20 Gemma Baker (St Rich Gwyn) 12.52; 21 Charlotte Waller (St Rich Gwyn) 12.33; 23 Ashleigh Thomas (Cow) 11.60; 28 Sarah Oliver (St Cyres) 6.53
2Km Walk: 3 Amy Taylor (Cow) 14:39.0; 4 Hannah Clist (Cow) 14:39.0
4x100: Ht 1 2 Bryn Hafren 55.5; 5 St Richard Gwyn 59.1; Ht 2 2 Bro Morgannwg 56.5; 6 Llantwit Major 59.2; 7 Cowbridge 60.1; Fin 4 Bryn Hafren 56.3; 6 Bro Morgannwg 58
Team: 3 Bro Morgannwg 224; 6 Cowbridge 111; 7 Bryn Hafren 105; 8 Llantwit 99; 11 St Richard Gwyn 81; 12 St Cyres 71; 20 Stanwell 22

WORDS by PETER MORRIS
PHOTOS by IAN DIXON

Barry Kyokushin Club members conquer the highest mountain in the south Wales area

ABOVE: Members gather at Corn Du.

On April 25, Barry Kyokushin Karate Club completed their second annual outdoor training session at the Brecon Beacons National Park where they climbed to the top of Pen y Fan (the highest mountain in south Wales).

Eighteen members (junior and senior) were led up Pen y Fan by assistant instructor Senpai Phil Sedgmond, 1st Dan.

At 2pm, the members met up at the bottom of Corn Du (second highest mountain in south Wales). They were then briefed of the dangers of the hike up the mountain by Senpai Phil.

Then they set off with the sun shining. After a few minutes of hiking, Senpai Phil took all students through some stretching and Kihon (basic techniques) as a warm up.

Then the weather turned, heavy rain and strong wind prevailed, but Barry Kyokushin Karate Club pressed on. Once the club reached the point where they would complete Corn Du, due to the hazardous conditions, Senpai Phil advised that is was too dangerous to complete Corn Du, so would take the safer route and go around the mountain to complete their target of Pen y Fan.

With the heavy rain turning to hail, not all students would turn back and wanted to complete Pen y Fan. Once at the peak of Pen y Fan, students were overjoyed to have completed their goal in such cold, wet weather.

Unfortunately, they were unable to see the spectacular views due to the foggy weather, but were compensated by Senpai Phil giving them a training session of Kihon (basic techniques) and Kata (pattern) on the top of Pen y Fan.

On the trek back down, the seniors were taken onto 'dead man's ledge' (a ledge that runs along the side of Corn Du). After some Kihon (basic techniques) the hail stopped and the snow started to fall.

Senpai Phil then led them back down the mountain.

Senpai Phil said: "Although it was a cold, wet day, all of our students enjoyed the day in true Kyokushin spirit. I think it's important to get children out of the house and away from their computer games and TVs and show them what they can achieve while also boosting their confidence.

"How many children can go back to school on Monday and say 'I climbed the highest mountain in south Wales on the weekend?'"

Barry Kyokushin Karate club have just closed their latest beginners' course but they have another one scheduled for the summer.

Names are being taken for enrolment. Anyone interested in joining, should contact Sensei Richard on 01446 720843 or Senpai Phil on 01446 408974.

Victoria Park Mazda launches new range at Mermaid Quay

VICTORIA Park Mazda launched the much-anticipated Mazda3 range at Mermaid Quay over the bank holiday weekend.

A Victoria Park spokesman said: "The all-new Mazda3 is offering motorists outstanding value for money thanks to its generous equipment levels and low running costs.

"Both retail and fleet customers in Cardiff will benefit from lower road tax as well as capital allowance savings due to the dramatic CO2 reductions that bring models below the 120g/km and 160g/km tax thresholds".

The new 20-strong model line-up in hatchback and saloon is available at Victoria Park's showroom in Hadfield Road, Cardiff priced from £13,500 on-the-road.

For more information on the new range telephone 02920 387746.

ABOVE: The Mazda3 range was launched over the bank holiday weekend at Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay.

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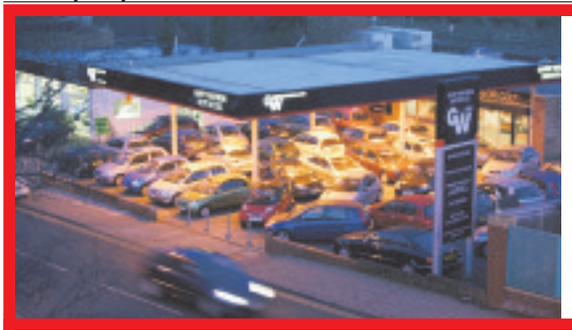

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06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles . . . **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback.** In odyssey blue with jacquard black interior, front fogs, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles . . . **£5,995**

06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles . . . **£5,995**

05 **05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbis 5-dr Hatchback.** In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles . . . **£5,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr hatchback** in Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloyt wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles . . . **£4,995**

04 **04 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16V Life 3-dr Hatchback** In star silver with orleans charcoal interior, central locking, CD, electric front windows, only 47,050 miles . . . **£3,995**

04 **04 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr Hatchback** In aquarius blue with intro midnight black interior, CD, body coloured bumpers, PAS, immobiliser, only 45,239 miles . . . **£3,995**

03 **53 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr Hatchback** in moondust silver with bussac ebony interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded, bumpers, only 43,745 miles . . . **£4,995**

03 **03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr.** In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles . . . **£3,995**

02 **52 Audi A2 1.4SE 5-dr Hatchback.** In azure blue with black interior, climate control, front fogs, immobiliser, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,820 miles. . . . **£4,995**

02 **02 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Privilege 5-dr Hatchback.** In Nordic green with vertigo grey interior, air con, 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles. . . . **£3,995**

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05 55 VW Beetle 2.0 2-dr Cabriolet. In reflex silver with black leather interior, heated seats, air con, CD, alloy wheels, only 25,010 miles **£9,995**

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195/60HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.83	£140	£270	195/60HR15 Avon ZV3	£53.61	£105	£200	195/60HR15 Hero	£37.77	£72	£139
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205/60WR15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.88	£140	£270	205/60WR15 Avon ZV5	£60.31	£117	£220	205/60WR15 Federal	£43.88	£82	£158
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GEM sport

Stags' bowlers suffer at the hands of the Ebbw Vale batsmen

A BARRY Athletic CC 1st XI side, currently sitting fourth from bottom in Division 2 of the South Wales Cricket League, travelled to fellow pre-season title contenders – Ebbw Vale CC, needing a win to boost their own title ambitions.

Ebbw Vale CC won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Barry began smoothly as opening batsmen, Lee Morgan and Nathan Baker, were able to tame the Ebbw Vale bowling attack.

Neither batsmen looked out of form as they both hit 50.

The Stags were flowing along nicely with 119-0 in the 35th over.

However, things went completely wrong from there-on-in.

Wickets fell continuously and the Stags were under pressure.

Fortunately, Lee Morgan was able to battle for 48 overs until he was dismissed for 62.

Apart from Nathan Baker (top score – 66), there was little other resistance from a batting point of view.

Barry struggled over the line, but finished with a respectable 185-9 from their 50 overs.

After the mid session interval, Barry knew they had to battle hard if they stood any chance against a strong Ebbw Vale side with plenty of batting.

There was a decent bowling display from the ever present Peter Hellyar.

He bowled magnificently for his figures of 2-30 from 11 overs.

However, Hellyar had to be removed from the bowling attack due to a hamstring injury.

This kick-started Ebbw Vale's innings and with the batting performances of B. Rawerda (80) and Jamie Nancarrow (53 n/o), Ebbw Vale CC reached the 186 target in the 38th over, only losing three wickets.

Things began slowly as opening batsmen Peter Davies and Steve Jones, battled hard, against the impressive bowling attack of C Hurley and I Watkins, until the first wicket fell with Jones being bowled by an unstoppable jaffer of a ball, bringing in skipper Martin Baker.

He never got settled and was dismissed two balls into his innings, going for a duck.

Things did not get any better as batsmen further down the order struggled to cope with the bowling attack.

There was some resistance with the bat (P Davies – 28, B Usswald – 25, J Gee – 22) but the Stags were all out for a less than impressive 150 in only 40 overs.

Croesyceiliog looked to settle this match as quickly as possible by smashing boundary after boundary.

J Jones made the Stag attack look very average and from that point onwards, Croesyceiliog never looked back.

They only suffered one hiccup along the way, when fast bowler, Joe Myers bowled an absolute pearler of a ball to remove the off stump, dismissing J Lewis for 32.

By then, the job was already done from a Croesyceiliog point of view and with the batting exhibition of J Jones (104 n/o), Croesyceiliog secured the win and a maximum 20 points to Barry's 2 points.

Things are not looking good for the 2nd XI with three defeats in their opening three games.

THIRDS SCRAPE DRAW

BARRY 3rd XI played host to Brecon CC, on a fine summer's day.

The Stag faithful were in full voice as the captains tossed up.

Brecon won the toss and elected to bat first.

The Barry team saw three changes from the side that lost convincingly to Pentyrch a fortnight ago.

Ian Gadd, Edryd Thomas and Sam Johnson came in for the outgoing Richie Roberts, Elliot Clissord and out of form Andrew Buckland.

The Stags began with Andy Ellis and Callum Twomey.

Both bowlers put Brecon under pressure from the first ball, which produced an exceptional run out from Nathan Clemett – hitting the stumps directly. Things got even better when regular 1st XI batsman, S Williams, was dismissed for a duck, after a fine catch from Ashley Baker.

It was then all too easy for the Stags, as wickets were falling rapidly.

Magnificent figures from all four bowlers included Andy Ellis (1-7 from five overs), Callum Twomey (3-17 from five overs), Sam Johnson (2-7 from four overs) and Ashley Baker (3-14 from 4.5 overs).

Brecon were dismissed for an embarrassing 49 all out in 18.5 overs.

Barry needed only 50 runs from 71 overs.

However, the second innings was a mirror image of the first innings.

Lack of experience in the Barry batting order was clearly shown as wickets were tumbling fast.

Barry collapsed from 16-0 to 31-7 in the 13th over, with batsmen John Phillips, Dominic Lack, Nathan Clemett, Ian Gadd and Simon Phillips all getting ducks.

Barry needed a batsman to stay with Edryd Thomas, who was battling away at one end, and they got one as Stag-of-the-match, Ashley Baker, formed a much needed partnership with Thomas.

Both youngsters helped Barry to scrape a draw with Brecon CC, Barry were also bowled out for 49 – Edryd Thomas (15), Ashley Baker (13), Tom Ellis (13).

The next round of league fixtures bring much needed games for the Stags, with Barry 1st XI hosting Division Two surprise package, Creigiau CC.

Barry 2nd XI travel to newly promoted Brecon CC and Barry 3rd XI pay a visit to Ponthir CC.

All three matches are must win games if the Stags are to get out of trouble.

AB

SECOND XI STRUGGLE IN THE HEAT

BARRY Athletic CC 2nd XI, boosted by the return of club legend Steve Jones, played host to Division 1 high-flyers, Croesyceiliog CC.

Barry skipper, Martin Baker, won the toss and elected to bat first.

Vale Karate kick for success

Turn to page 19 to read about how Vale Karate fared in their recent tournaments.

Romilly 'A' bowlers overwhelm Murch

BARRY Romilly Bowls Club 'A' side entertained the Murch Bowling Club on Saturday to compete in the SVLA trophy match on the improving Romilly green.

It was a warm sunny day and the Romilly boys took to the task and overwhelmed the Murch team with a winning score of 102 shots to 55.

Alf Woodcock's rink of A Bumford, D Ford and G Rees had a sensational game and produced an avalanche of shots for a stunning 38-6 win. Alf expressed his pleasure of his team's efforts and Alan Bumford's drawing shots in particular.

Bryn Gough's rink of C Collins, J Coles and L Jones also had a fine result and led for most of the match which included an 8 on the way to a 20-15 win.

Vince McFarland's rink of P Hoad, G Whittaker and K Westgate also had a strong game and won their match 25-14, which must have been a relief for Vince after last week's game.

Bob Wyatt's rink of D Knight, T Broomfield and C Davies had a close game and were level going into the last end. However, the Murch boy's won the last end and the rink 13-16.

RH

Agony for Athletic bowlers as they suffer one shot loss

BARRY Athletic's hopes of reaching the knock-out stages of the WBA Carruthers Shield suffered a severe jolt in a thrilling encounter against Maesteg Welfare at Barry Island on Saturday.

Despite losing on three rinks, the Athletic went down by just one shot, 77-78, with the game in the balance until the final wood.

Another tremendous performance by skip Dean Rees' rink put Athletic in the driving seat for most of the game.

Dean received excellent support from the in-form Mike Vaughan, talented teenager Steve McKernan, and the reliable Geoff Whittaker, to breeze home with an impressive 31-15 victory.

It was the second successive week for Dean to skip Athletic's top rink in a WBA qualifier.

Glyn Thomas' rink were involved in a keen struggle against a formidable Maesteg four before finally being pipped 17-19.

Robert Horgan's rink went down 15-24.

Chris Blake's rink began well, establishing a 13-11 lead after 15 tight ends, but slipped to a 14-20 defeat due to an indifferent final six ends.

The Island club now need a huge runaway win at Cefn Cribwr this weekend, hoping Maesteg Welfare lose their qualifier against Bridgend Municipal, if they are to make WBA progress.

The prospects look grim following their narrow home set-back.

Barry Athletic's PG2 squad resume their programme this Saturday with a home fixture against Barry Plastics and will be keen to impress following their successful curtain-raiser win over Penarth Rectory Road.

Scores: Barry Athletic v Maesteg Welfare – S McKernan, M Vaughan, G Whittaker, D Rees 31, J Thomas, G Sutton, T Moore, A Thomas 15; J Horgan, J Beanland, G Humphreys, R Horgan 15, M Wilcox, G Davies, D Rees, P Davies 24; C Phillips, M Eskins, D Snelling, C Blake 14. D John, M Hopkins, A Williams, S Hoare 20; D Evans, JR Evans, DK Williams, G Thomas 17, J Summers, E Jones, M Trigg, G Evans 19.

Mixed week on the green for the Cadoxton Ladies team

TRELAI welcomed Cadoxton Ladies to the evening league match on May 15 and the teams played with the best weather this season – the sun shone and the green was perfect.

Results: Rink one – Cadoxton: J Wood, J Watkins, N Clissett, P Cox 22; Trelai: M Holland, J Chapman, M Williams, V Roberts 8.

Cadoxton showed great strength in the first five ends by gaining 10 shots. It was very difficult for the ladies of Trelai to catch up. Ends 11 and 12 saw Trelai gain four shots, but they were unable to make further gains.

Rink two – Cadoxton: C Hope, N Hitchen, P Bryant, D Davies 24; Trelai: M Porter, M Lockwood, B Parsons, C Miles 10.

Trelai started very strongly and gained three on the first end. Cadoxton came back on the next end to gain four shots. The game was very even, up to the ninth end at 7-7.

Cadoxton came back with gains on ends 10-13 by scoring 12 shots, making it very hard for Trelai to make a comeback.

Total Cadoxton 46 Trelai 18.

In the Glamorgan County Women's League match on May 21, at Millwood, the weather was fine although extremely windy.

Results: Rink one – Cadoxton: M Paterson, J Pycroft, N Clissett, D Davies 7; Millwood: J Mason, C Rich, D Wyatt, M Knight 27.

Cadoxton opened by gaining one for the first two ends. They did not score again until 12th end, and seven ends were won by only by one shot on each.

Rink 2 – Cadoxton: A Rees, A Jones, P Currie P Cox 15; Millwood: M Emeny. F Luen, J Davis A Davies 19.

Cadoxton started well and gained six shots on the first three ends. They didn't score again until the eighth end when a run netted six shots, putting Cadoxton well ahead.

However, Millwood were not finished and while Cadoxton were unable to gain more than one on each end, Millwood gained two shots on each of the last four ends to win the game.

Rink 3 – Cadoxton: M Slee, P Davies, D Evans J Tuck 21; Millwood: J Selley, D Gorringe, I Dowling K Kerslakle 16.

This was the only success of the day. Cadoxton started slowly and Millwood were in the lead up to the 14th end when the score was 13-14. Over the next four ends, Cadoxton scored nine shots to secure the game.

Total: Cadoxton 43 Millwood 62.

Mrs DM Davies

National victory for Barrivale

THE Perry Shield Open teams and the Ladies Spickett Bowl events took place in Prestatyn.

The competitions between the four areas of Wales, east, mid, north and west are held annually.

Two Barrivale players, Joan Jenkins and Noelle Bond, were members of the east Wales team which won the Spickett Bowl. The Perry Shield was also won by east Wales.

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club: First, Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins, 61.98 per cent; second, Mark Roderick and Mike Best 61.46 61.98 per cent; third, Jane Brook and Kay Dyer 59.38 61.98 per cent.

Noelle and Joan were the handicap winners.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale.

For more information telephone 01446 733425.

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